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Technical co-operation among developing countries

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Eighth session
New York, 25-28 May 1993
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Status of pre-session documents

Note by the Administrator

1. For the information of the Committee, the secretariat is submitting the attached report on the status of pre-session documents, which has been prepared in consultation with the Office of Conference Services.

2. The documents which have been distributed by 10 May 1993 are marked with an "X" and the projected dates of distribution are indicated for the pending documents.

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HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Eighth session, 25-28 May 1993

Agenda item	Document number	Document subject	Document submitted to Office of Conference Services	Document distributed	Projected date of distribution
				A C E F R S	
3	TCDC/8/L.1	Provisional and annotated agenda, including list of documents	1/3/93	X X X X X X	
"	TCDC/8/L.2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work	1/3/93	X X X X X X	
"	TCDC/8/1	Status of pre-session documents	10/5/93		13/5/93
5	TCDC/8/2	Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and decisions of the High-level Committee	13/4/93		19/5/93
"	TCDC/8/2/Add.1	" "	23/4/93		17/5/93
6	TCDC/8/3	Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme	5/4/93		17/5/93

Agenda item	Document number	Document subject	Document submitted to Office of Conference Services	Document distributed	Projected date of distribution
7	TCDC/8/4	Report on development of a strategy for the promotion and the application of technical cooperation among developing countries	5/4/93		19/5/93
8	TCDC/8/5	Organizational and supportive arrangements for TCDC	5/4/93		14/5/93

UNITED NATIONS

TCDC

Technical co-operation among developing countries

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HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Eighth session
New York, 25-28 May 1993

REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE BUENOS AIRES PLAN OF ACTION AND DECISIONS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE

SUMMARY

The present document is submitted in compliance with decisions 7/4, 7/5 and 7/7 of the High-level Committee regarding:

(i) Information on progress achieved in TCDC activities of Governments;

(ii) Progress made by the United Nations development system in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing TCDC; and

(iii) Role of women in TCDC.

The report contains an analysis of the information received by the Special Unit for TCDC, a summary of the emerging trends in the period under review and the conclusions and recommendations of the Administrator of UNDP.

This report is in response to paragraph 10 of decision 7/5 of the High-level Committee concerning the submission of a single document to the High-level Committee at its eighth session containing an analysis of the information provided by Governments and organizations, including conclusions and recommendations as appropriate.

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I. INFORMATION FROM GOVERNMENTS ON THEIR ACTIVITIES IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Introduction

1. Pursuant to decision 7/4 of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries submitted, in November 1992 improved questionnaires to Governments requesting information on their support to TCDC activities. The requests were accompanied by clear interpretation of TCDC and illustrating examples of TCDC activities. By the end of February 1993, 42 developing countries (compared to 39 for the previous reporting period 1989-1990) and 8 developed countries (compared to 3 for the previous period) submitted the requested information to the Special Unit. Offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in five developing countries (Afghanistan, Haiti, Lebanon, Angola and Albania) indicated that no TCDC activities were undertaken during the period under review due to the prevailing political situation in these countries. The UNDP office in Swaziland reported that the country had not yet introduced the TCDC modality in implementation of projects/programmes.

2. The Governments of developing countries were asked to provide, for the period under review, 1991-1992, information on their policies and mechanisms, financial support for TCDC, and bilateral and multilateral TCDC agreements. They were also requested to report on network arrangements they support, on the promotional and operational activities undertaken and on the measures they suggest to enhance the utilization of TCDC. Governments of developed countries were requested to report on policies followed or envisaged to facilitate TCDC and on direct or indirect financial support for TCDC.

3. Some of the responses to the questionnaires were incomplete or did not comply with the suggested format. However, the responses allow the identification of general trends followed and the global progress made during the reporting period.

4. The following gives a summary of the activities and policy changes undertaken by Governments in strengthening their institutional capacities and mechanisms, of their promotional and operational activities and of their financial support for TCDC. The report summarizes the major trends and gives the Administrator's conclusions and recommendations for future action.

A. Information from developing countries

1. Institutional capacity and framework for TCDC

5. TCDC national focal point: A total of 16 countries reported having their national focal point in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, within the department of international cooperation, 19 countries indicated having their focal point in the Ministry of Planning, 1 country reported having it in the Ministry of Finance and 6 in different other ministries. It is to be noted, however, that from the information available at the Special Unit for TCDC, 75 countries out of

120 have their focal points within their planning and finance machinery. Bahrain reported not having a focal point. Most of the countries reported that their focal point is not an individual but consists of identified units. Fifteen countries reported having sectoral focal points in other Ministries, mainly Health, Agriculture, Transport and Environment. Sao Tome and Principe reported using non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as sectoral focal points.

6. The main weaknesses impeding effective action by the focal points appear to be: vagueness in role and lack of terms of reference; lack of authority and finance; lack of appropriate information; inappropriate location of focal points in government structure. Frequent changes of persons in charge of TCDC was also cited as a factor.

7. Measures envisaged/required by the countries for strengthening the focal point mechanism include: financial support from the Government; clearer terms of reference; setting up and sensitizing sectoral focal points; strengthening of data collection, information system at national level and flow of communication with other national focal points; assistance from the Special Unit for TCDC; better support from UNDP field offices.

8. Support for TCDC: Regarding specific national budget allocations for the promotion or application of TCDC over the concerned period, the countries varied in their responses. Viet Nam, Mongolia, Samoa, Maldives, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Panama, El Salvador, Uruguay, Guatemala, Honduras, Bahrain and Iraq indicated that no specific amount was allocated for TCDC activities. The following countries reported specific national allocations for TCDC promotion and application: Brazil, $141,000 in 1991 and $42,000 in 1992; Argentina, $4 million; Senegal, $75,000; Sao Tome and Principe, $100,000; China, $330,000; Thailand, $8.5 million in 1992 and estimated $8 million for 1993; Colombia, $79,800 for 1992; Chile, $1.8 million; Tunisia, $1.5 million. Pakistan and the Philippines reported the existence of the allocation without mentioning its amount.

9. Concerning the percentage of the national programmes and projects implemented through the TCDC modality and the percentage of the projects/programmes financed from external sources and using TCDC, the countries seemed to have some difficulty in quantifying accurately their answers to these two questions. The provided percentages range from 0 to 60 per cent for the first question and from 0 to 20 per cent for the second (see table 1). China reported that in 1991-1992, three projects were implemented through the TCDC modality and that a $450,000 project financed from external sources has been implemented using the modality. Korea reported that $7 million programmes/projects financed from external sources have been or are being implemented using the TCDC modality. Thailand reported that $2.5 million projects are implemented using the TCDC modality. Bahrain mentioned that two projects financed by Japan use the TCDC modality.

Table 1

Support for TCDC

Country	% of Prog./Proj. implemented through TCDC	% of Proj/Prog. financed from external resources & implem. through TCDC
Panama	5%	-
Uruguay	-	10%
Seychelles	5%	5%
Burkina Faso	2%	10%
Lesotho	2%	2%
Samoa	1%	-
Iran	0%	0%
Thailand	60%	$2.5 million projects
Viet Nam	0%	0%
Mongolia	0%	0%
Bahrain	0%	2 projects (Japan fin.)
Philippines	50%	20%
Colombia	0.5%	-
Peru	5%	-
Chile	2%	1%
Argentina	-	$100,000 projects
Honduras	-	0%
Jamaica	0.5%	1%
China	3 projects	$450,000 projects
Korea	-	$7 million projects

10. Bilateral and multilateral TCDC agreements: Most countries mentioned having ongoing and newly signed bilateral and multilateral TCDC agreements with other developing countries (see table 2). These agreements involve training, cooperation and exchange of technical, cultural, economic and scientific experience in different sectors and fields such as: agriculture, civil aviation, environment, computer science, telecommunications, education, health, trade and industry, mining, rural development, transport, urban development, small- and medium-scale industry, tourism and energy. Most of the agreements are among countries in the same region and subregion. Tunisia reported 30 existing agreements in telecommunication, industry and training, and 10 newly signed agreements. Mozambique reported having several agreements with different African countries and with Cuba. Brazil reported having agreements with all developing countries in environment, agriculture and urban transport, and has signed 32 other agreements during the reporting period. Viet Nam indicated existing agreements with India and other countries, but had not signed any new agreement during the reporting period. During this period, Maldives (which had no previous agreement), Pakistan, China, Samoa and the Philippines signed, respectively, 3, 190, 109, 4 and 163 new agreements.

Table 2

Bilateral and multilateral agreements

Country	Number of Existing Agreements	Number of new agreements
Tunisia	30	10
Colombia	36	-
Chile	18	9
Mexico	55	3
Peru	32	52
Jamaica	20	-
Panama	20	12
Uruguay	-	4
Brazil	-	50
Burkina Faso	4	32
Sao Tome and Principe	15	5
Senegal	-	2
Thailand	20	87
Pakistan	-	3
China	-	190
Samoa	-	109
Philippines	-	4
Maldives	-	163
		3
Total	250	738

11. Networks: While several countries are members of different global, regional and subregional network arrangements, the following countries are still not members of any network: Maldives, Botswana, Sao Tome and Principe, Lesotho, El Salvador, Jamaica, Bahrain and Iraq. The specific benefits derived from networking arrangements are reported to be the exchange of information on needs and capacities and on trade and import/export. Pakistan and China reported that the results of their networking arrangements are still under evaluation.

12. Promotional activities: Eighteen countries reported having carried out surveys or completed compendia on their capacities and needs for applying TCDC and mentioned that generally, the survey or directory had a moderate impact on the country's TCDC exchange. Eleven other countries reported that they undertook no such activities. The Philippines, Mongolia and El Salvador have executed sectoral surveys in the agriculture sector.

13. Nine countries (Chile, Honduras, El Salvador, Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Senegal, Thailand and Viet Nam), reported having organized sensitization programmes (other than those supported through TCDC sensitization seminars) during the reporting period.

14. All responding countries (except Pakistan, Samoa, Mongolia, Jamaica and Bahrain) undertook a number of missions to other developing countries to discuss possible exchanges or plan specific cooperation activities. The number of missions vary greatly and range from 1 to over 20 during the reporting period

(see table 3). Tunisia reported that 50 per cent of its missions led to effective TCDC exchanges. Iraq mentioned that missions to three countries resulted in cultural programmes with these countries. Honduras reported that missions to Chile, Argentina and Mexico led to projects in different sectors. Brazil mentioned that missions carried out to 21 countries resulted in different plans of actions, out of which 23 have been signed with Latin American countries. Uruguay mentioned that the four missions undertaken resulted in 15 scientific courses and five joint studies with Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela and Chile. Burkina Faso reported that missions to two countries resulted in technical cooperation activities with Turkey. Senegal undertook missions to 11 countries that resulted in sending Senegalese teachers to Seychelles, Mali, the Niger and Gabon. Missions carried out by officials from Botswana to Singapore and Pakistan resulted in sending nationals to Singapore for training. Thailand reported that missions undertaken to five countries and to attend five round tables resulted in Thailand providing technical assistance to 450 trainees from five different countries. China mentioned that missions to 16 countries led to training provided to other countries in different agreements. Peru reported having undertaken missions to Mexico, Chile and China and that consequently agreements with Mexico and Chile are under negotiation. Argentina indicated that most of its seven missions to Central America and the Caribbean resulted in agreements. Iran reported 10 missions that resulted in agreements with Turkey, Pakistan and China.

Table 3

TCDC planning missions and results

Country	Number of Missions	Results in TCDC Exchanges
Tunisia	several	50% in effective exchange
Iraq	3	3 agreements
Honduras	3	effective projects
Brazil	21	23 plans of actions
Uruguay	4	15 scientific courses & 5 studies
Burkina Faso	2	effective exchange
Senegal	11	Teachers sent to 4 countries
Botswana	2	training of nationals
Thailand	10	training provided to 5 countries
China	16	effective cooperation
Mexico	22	different agreements
Peru	3	agreements
Argentina	7	agreements
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	10	agreements with 3 countries

15. Operational activities: The countries were asked to report on activities that meet the TCDC interpretation and criteria in the explanatory note that accompanied the revised questionnaire. They were particularly requested to report on the following:

- Experts provided to and received from other developing countries;
- Trainees received from and sent to other developing countries;
- Equipment provided to and received from other developing countries;
- Joint studies carried out with other developing countries.

16. The information submitted by the countries that responded to the questionnaire indicates that more than 3,750 experts and more than 5,300 trainees have been exchanged between developing countries during the reporting period (see table 4).

17. Over the period under review, Thailand provided equipment totalling $5 million to different countries of its region. China reported having provided $280,000 of equipment. Korea received $2.9 million of equipment and Tunisia provided and received equipment totalling $30,000 and $20,000 respectively.

18. Fifteen countries indicated that they participated in technical or scientific workshops during the reporting period. These workshops covered a variety of fields and sectors such as: agriculture, energy, mining, electrical/electronic goods, civil air transport, small industries, research and development. Eight countries reported having carried out a total of 95 joint studies and research with other developing countries on development issues of common interest (see table 4).

Table 4

TCDC operational activities

Country	Experts		Trainees		Equipment		Tech. & Scientific Workshops	Joint Ventures
	Sent	Rec'd	Sent	Rec'd	Sent	Rec'd		
Pakistan	16	68	30	14		$5,000	4	
Jamaica	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	0
Korea	39	250	465	500		$2,9m	20	57
Colombia	6		67	2			7	
Chile	32	15	25	350			13	2
Guatemala	3	50	152					
Brazil	274	20	12	181			56	
Ethiopia		20						
Thailand			1300	275	$5m			
Tunisia	1367			315	$30,000	$20,000	5	1
Bahrain			10					
Panama	10	21	50	5			12	4
Burkina Faso	9	50	12	0			5	
Mongolia	1			2				
Uruguay	3	12	19	5			15	5
Senegal							4	2
Botswana			3				1	
China	25			133	$180,000		42	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	4	4						1
Argentina	65			30				
Peru	3	5	20				23	
Mexico	614	109	59	980			119	23
Mozambique		653	200					
TOTAL	2471	1279	2425	2784	5,210,000	2,925,000	328	95

2. General assessment

19. The countries were requested to assess whether their TCDC exchange/activities over time have increased, decreased or remained rather stable. Most of the countries reported that their TCDC activities were clearly increasing. Thailand reported that they were increasing in terms of provided activities by the country and decreasing in terms of received activities. Burkina Faso and Iraq indicated that their TCDC activities were decreasing. Bahrain reported that its TCDC activities were rather stable and that the country has first to establish a national focal point for TCDC.

20. Of the responses, Pakistan, China, Korea, Cape Verde, Peru, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Thailand, Mongolia, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uruguay, Chile, Honduras, Tunisia and Iraq mentioned that their Governments have a clear policy to use the TCDC modality to implement activities in high priority development sectors and to seize available opportunities as they are identified. Maldives, Seychelles, Cyprus, Burkina Faso, Botswana, El Salvador, Brazil and Guatemala reported that their Governments have no clear policy to use the TCDC modality, but they seize opportunities as they are identified. Viet Nam, the Philippines, Panama and Yemen indicated that they simply have no clear policy to use the TCDC modality in high priority development sectors.

21. The countries were asked to state the three most important measures they see as necessary to enhance significantly the utilization of TCDC. Although countries have generally different constraints in the promotion and use of TCDC, their views on the necessary measures to enhance the uses of TCDC are similar. The three most important emerging measures stated by the countries seem to be:

- Formulation of a clear national policy on use of TCDC;
- Strengthening of the national focal points; and
- Financial support for TCDC activities from specific national allocated budgets, from UNDP (SU/TCDC) and from other international bilateral and multilateral sources.

22. A number of other measures have been mentioned, including:

- Increasing sensitization activities at all levels: to encourage Governments to give priority to use TCDC in the implementation of national programmes and to allocate sufficient specific budgets for TCDC activities; and to encourage bilateral (developed countries) and multilateral donors to increase their support for TCDC use;
- Encouraging the involvement of the private sector in TCDC activities;
- Supporting improvement of communications between the different national focal points and increased flow of information on needs and capacities between the countries;
- Assisting in formulating and implementing proper national TCDC umbrella projects where they do not exist; and

- Providing comprehensive training of focal points in the use of the different networks and particularly INRES.

23. Pakistan suggested the encouragement of joint-venture activities among developing countries. Brazil suggested changing the signal so that instead of being mainly reactive, developing countries should be more proactive and prepare ready packages for technical cooperation to be offered to other countries for financial negotiation.

B. Information from developed countries

24. Eight developed countries provided information on their support to TCDC activities. Despite the interpretation and examples that accompanied the questionnaire, it emerges from the answers that there still exists lack of clear perception of what TCDC is to some countries.

25. While recognizing the importance of reinforcing the intellectual and commercial relations among developing countries, Norway reported that the promotion of TCDC has not been a top priority in its development assistance. Norway indicated that its assistance is based on the principle of concentration on a limited number of partner countries and regions. It mentioned having organized training programmes involving several countries.

26. Germany reported that it rates TCDC very highly within its development policy and that it considers South-South cooperation to have a key complementary function to North-South cooperation. As reported, the German assistance is to a considerable extent untied, which favours the exchange of goods and services among developing countries; its support to TCDC activities is done through:

- Promotion of international institutions of developing countries;
- TCDC;
- Training in other developing countries and use of experts from developing countries.

27. Spain indicated that it fully supports the promotion of South-South cooperation that helps developing countries to be aware of their own responsibilities in international development and in helping the poorest countries among them. During 1991-1992, Spain reported having used 325 experts from developing countries in its development programmes/projects and having financed 1,536 nationals from different developing countries for courses/training in other developing countries. France indicated that its financial support to TCDC initiatives is mainly channelled through its budget for multilateral cooperation. Ireland indicated that it has no specific policies for TCDC promotion. The Irish Government reported being agreeable, in principle, to third-party financing from bilateral assistance for TCDC activities, but has never been requested to provide such assistance. Ireland has sponsored students from the United Republic of Tanzania to attend university in Kenya and students from Zambia and Lesotho to take short courses in Zimbabwe and used developing countries' institutions to carry out specific studies.

28. Finland reported supporting TCDC activities in Africa and Latin America, such as the SADCC (Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference) regional forestry research master plan, and the forestry development in the Organization of American States (OAS)-implemented programme of cooperation between frontier areas of Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

29. The United Kingdom indicated that its support to TCDC activities comes from funds allocated for regional programmes. It estimated that 40 to 50 operations meeting the criteria of TCDC are currently being given British support at an estimated total amount of £15 million. It also reported that most TCDC activities supported by the United Kingdom include some networking elements, that training in developing countries is used whenever suitable institutions can be identified and that experts from developing countries (except from Commonwealth member States in certain circumstances) are not used in the United Kingdom's bilateral assistance programme. Australia reported supporting TCDC in all fields of its development cooperation programmes. It indicated that many of the Australian bilateral projects involve training and seminars in developing countries attended by participants from other developing countries. Australia mentioned also that it does not generally recruit experts from developing countries.

30. Following up on decision 7/10 of the High-level Committee at its seventh session, contacts were made with the secretariat of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to explore ways of getting data and information on TCDC activities carried out by Development Assistance Committee countries. The consultation established that the information requested for the reporting by the Special Unit was not currently available. The OECD secretariat does not have the required breakdowns and does not capture information specifically on the number of experts from developing countries used in development assistance supported by developed countries. Nor does it have information on the number of nationals financed by developed countries and trained in developing countries. The OECD secretariat had indicated that it will look into ways by which the type of information required for reporting could be captured and generated. Since this will imply changes or additions in the present reporting procedures of OECD, the secretariat will submit the request to its appropriate bodies for approval. The Special Unit will continue to follow up on the contacts started and will report at the next session of the High-level Committee on the arrangements that might be agreed upon.

C. Conclusions and recommendations

31. Developing countries that provided information indicated that the TCDC exchanges/activities over time are significantly increasing. This is reflected in the number of experts and trainees exchanged, joint studies and technical or scientific workshops carried out, networking arrangements set up, and bilateral agreements concluded. For example, more than 5,300 trainees were exchanged between developing countries, and more than 3,750 experts were also exchanged (information given by 41 countries) compared to some 700 experts reported (by 39 countries) during the previous reporting period (1988-1990). In addition, the eight developed countries that provided information (compared to three for the previous reporting period) recognize the importance of TCDC in international

cooperation and some of them reported having already started to incorporate it in their development policy.

32. As emphasized in Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41, Governments of developing countries need, therefore, to mobilize the necessary resources and to give "first consideration" to TCDC in cooperation activities among themselves. Some assistance could be provided from the Special Unit for TCDC and the United Nations system to help in the formulation of national policy on use of TCDC.

33. The quantity and quality of responses still need to be improved and continue to be a source of concern. The capacities of TCDC coordinating ministries to gather and disseminate proper information on TCDC activities need also to be reinforced.

34. Strengthening the national focal points and coordination mechanism emerges as one of the major recommendations of developing countries. The Special Unit for TCDC will continue its support to regional focal point meetings designed for exchange of experiences and to strengthen this mechanism.

35. The lack of financial support for TCDC activities is still identified as a major handicap in the promotion and use of the TCDC modality in development work. Greater efforts and willingness are needed to provide the main inputs required, including increased use of the Indicative Planning Figures, increase in allocations from national treasures and flexibility by donors in the use of bilateral assistance to carry out activities implemented through TCDC.

36. In some instances, the meaning of TCDC and its features seems not to be fully understood. It is urged that the interpretation endorsed in decision 7/5 of the High-level Committee be applied and effective measures to accelerate the pace of the use of the TCDC modality in the execution of projects/programmes be adopted in each country.

II. PROGRESS MADE BY THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN IMPLEMENTING THE BUENOS AIRES PLAN OF ACTION

Introduction

37. This section of the report has been prepared in accordance with decision 7/5 of the High-level Committee requesting the Administrator to report at the eighth session on progress made by the United Nations development system (UNDS) in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA). It consists of an analysis of the information provided by 14 organizations and agencies of the United Nations system through the completion of the revised questionnaire agreed upon by the TCDC focal points of the UNDS at their meeting held at UNDP headquarters in New York on 15 and 16 July 1992. The report also contains the Administrator's conclusions and recommendations.

38. The 14 organizations that replied to the questionnaire are: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Telecommunication Union (ITU); United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat); United Nations Department for Economic and Social Development

(UNDESD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW); Universal Postal Union (UPU); World Health Organization (WHO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

39. The organizations were asked to provide, for the period under review, 1991-1992, information on the level of support for promotion and application of TCDC, the related institution-building and the strengthening of networking and sensitization on TCDC. The reports received indicate that the promotion and application of TCDC in United Nations programmes and projects is increasing and that the pace of the use of the TCDC modality is also accelerating.

A. United Nations organizations other then UNDP

1. Level of support for TCDC promotion and application

40. Specific policies ensuring the application of TCDC: Most United Nations agencies and bodies reported giving increased special attention to TCDC during the reporting period. Several have extensively assessed their policies and activities during the reporting period.

41. FAO mentioned having issued Field Programme Circulars calling upon all parts of the organization to implement its TCDC work programme. It also issued an FAO Handbook on TCDC in 1992, clarifying the TCDC modality and procedures for FAO and developing countries' staff. ITU indicated that it has been using the TCDC modality in its technical assistance and cooperation work for a number of years and that its policy on the matter is carried in its Administrative Council Document No. 6967. UNDESD mentioned that it has steadily continued to incorporate TCDC in its activities and that, like its predecessor, UNDTCD, it has considered the BAPA a binding legislative framework for its TCDC activities along with subsequent resolutions/decisions on TCDC adopted by the United Nations legislative bodies.

42. UNCTAD reported that TCDC is a major element of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT mandate and activities and that the promotion of South-South trade is one of the priorities of the Centre. UNCTAD pointed out that trade among developing countries, which has rapidly grown in recent years, i.e. 16 per cent per year between 1989 and 1991, to reach some $235 billion in 1991, represents in itself one of the most successful forms of cooperation among developing countries. UNFPA reported that its Guidelines for TCDC are being revised to increase the effectiveness of the promotional and catalytic role of the fund in view of the enhanced scope of TCDC. UNIDO indicated that its General Conference adopted at its fourth session a regulatory framework for a UNIDO-wide TCDC programme defining 12 basic objectives and directions including: strengthening institutional resources for TCDC activities at the subregional and regional levels; identifying opportunities for TCDC; improving the flow of information on TCDC. UNIDO mentioned also that it encourages the involvement of the private sector at all its TCDC meetings, recognizing hence the need to

foster entrepreneurship as the steam and engine of growth. UPU indicated that its policy, in regard to TCDC, is guided by the resolution adopted in 1989 by the Washington Universal Postal Congress that made the TCDC concept a preferred form of South-South cooperation and which instructed UPU to take the required initiatives with a view to making TCDC the general practice.

43. WHO reported that TCDC was an integral part of its programmes, irrespective of whether they are financed from the WHO regular budget or from other sources. It indicated that, in order to accelerate the implementation of their Health-for-All strategies, developing countries have undertaken the examination of their own needs and capacities and the selection of ways and means for the exchange and transfer of specific resources that lend themselves to cooperative activities and joint ventures. UNCHS reported that fostering horizontal cooperation and exchange of expertise among developing countries was a cornerstone of its activities and that the organization set up during 1991-1992 a roster of national urban management expertise (UMEX) to facilitate the promotion and more systematic use of developing countries' expertise. UNESCO indicated that its Executive Board has consistently given its full support to the integration of the TCDC modality during the elaboration of the organization's plans and programmes. It mentioned that the decentralization to field offices of major regular programme activities has made the application of TCDC simpler and more effective over the past two years. INSTRAW reported that although its mandate does not envisage it as an executing agency, it was, however, engaged in collaborative TCDC research and training activities with other organizations in the field of women and development.

44. Specific measures and changes envisaged for 1993-1994: The United Nations organizations were asked to outline the specific measures/changes they envisage for the coming two years in expanding the use of TCDC in the implementation of projects supported by them. Most agencies reported that their policies for ensuring the application of TCDC will be strengthened and improved. Most agencies indicated also that they were completing national inventories on TCDC capacities and capabilities in their different fields of action.

45. ITU reported that the expansion of the use of TCDC is reflected in the increase of its related budget from 114,000 Swiss francs in 1991 to 400,000 Swiss francs in 1992 and 1993 (approved), and 1994 (estimated). UNFPA mentioned that through its increased emphasis on decentralization and national execution, it expects that more TCDC activities will be initiated at the country and regional levels. It also mentioned that it had initiated steps for computerized recording of allocations and expenditures specifically utilized for promotion and implementation of TCDC. FAO indicated that it envisages giving continued attention to: improvement and expansion of databases and information bases for TCDC; exchange of experience and dissemination of lessons, technologies and innovative approaches through networks, twinning, workshops and training; orientation of FAO and national staff on enhanced use of the TCDC modality. FAO reported also that it will continue efforts on progressive improvement of its semi-annual TCDC/ECDC Newsletter, highlighting innovative approaches and experiences, and that it will make further efforts to assist Governments in planning and executing TCDC activities for UNDP financing and Special Programme Resources.

46. WMO reported that it is expecting TCDC activities to expand correspondingly with the increasing volume of its Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP), which invites countries to provide technical assistance on a voluntary basis. WHO mentioned that it did not envisage any major changes in policy or strategy. It reported that its 1992-1993 regular budget contains specific allocations for TCDC support and that in one WHO region, up to 10 per cent of the WHO regular budget at the country level was recommended for TCDC support. WHO indicated that it will promote similar recommendations in other regions. UNCHS reported that it envisages an increased use of its new Roster of National Urban Management Expertise (UMEX) of developing countries, mainly in: land management; infrastructure management; municipal finance and administration; and urban environment. It indicated also that it will emphasize the promotion of TCDC at the global level through its Phase II (1992-1996) of the Urban Management Programme, funded from UNDP global and interregional resources and by a number of bilateral donors. UNESCO reported that its Bureau for Studies, Programming and Evaluation will be the institutional place where TCDC modalities will be put into final texts within UNESCO's sextennial plans and biennial programmes.

47. Extent to which TCDC is applied and significance of increase: The agencies were asked to describe the extent to which TCDC was applied as a modality in the implementation of their programmes and projects and the priority to accelerate its use in their programmes and projects. They were also asked to assess how significant the increase, if any, has been from June 1990 to December 1992, in programming projects that are fully or partially implemented through TCDC. Not all responding agencies have clearly answered these questions.

48. WMO reported that, except for its Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP) which corresponds best to the definition of TCDC, there were no special programmes in which the TCDC modality has been applied as such. It mentioned, however, that the TCDC activities financed by developing countries, within its VCP, have increased during the period 1990-1992 to reach a total of $868,000. ITU mentioned that the TCDC modality was used in a wide range of specialties in telecommunications, including training in various fields, management information services (MIS), financial consultancies, management, planning and maintenance. DESD reported that it continuously promotes and includes TCDC elements in projects under its execution, especially during project formulation. UNIDO indicated that in 1991 and 1992, 29 per cent of all experts and consultants recruited under technical cooperation projects were from developing countries and that this was above the 25 per cent target referred to in the Board decision. UNIDO reported also that 20 per cent of the total value ($36 million) of equipment and supplies delivered for technical cooperation projects in 1991 was from developing countries. UPU reported that its overall TCDC achievements have remained limited up to now and that, in certain fields, there was difficulty in procuring the required expertise from developing countries. It indicated, however, that it had noted some encouraging signs in the implementation of its programmes since 1992.

49. FAO reported that its Handbook on TCDC outlines features of the TCDC modality in the context of the agency. It mentioned that through TCDC briefing and orientation sessions, understanding of the modality was being enhanced, but much remains to be done in the way of "institutionalizing" TCDC. FAO indicated, however, that more networks have become operational, particularly in Asia and

the Pacific, and in Latin America. WHO reported having provided technical support for the formulation of the second medium-term programme on TCDC for Health for All for the period 1990-1995, for the initial plan of action on TCDC for Health for All (1990-1991), and for the Declaration on Health as a Foundation for Development. It indicated that technical and financial support for the promotion and coordination of TCDC has been provided in the regions with the aim of triggering regional or subregional development strategies and/or priority programmes. UNCHS mentioned that its best example of promotion of TCDC at the global level was the Phase II (1992-1996) of its Urban Management Programme, financed by UNDP and other bilateral donors. It indicated that in the biennium 1990-1992, added emphasis on capacity-building and operational TCDC activities have been steadily expanding.

50. Focal point arrangements: Most of the agencies reported having focal point arrangements in place. UNITAR indicated having recently appointed focal points in sub-Saharan Africa and that TCDC activities are coordinated by these focal points. FAO reported that a TCDC focal point unit had originally been established on 1 January 1979 in its Field Programme Development Division, Development Department, but that since 1 January 1992, a single combined focal point for TCDC and ECDC was established in the Office of the Assistant Director General, Development Department. It indicated that this new unit comprises two Professional and one General Service staff and that it interacts with 24 regional offices. WHO reported that its focal point for TCDC is the Director of the Technical Cooperation Department. UNIDO indicated that as part of its restructuring process, the subprogramme ECDC/TCDC was transferred in July 1992 from the Area Programme Division to the Special Measures and Activities Division, that the staffing was reduced to two Professionals, and that consequently, the subprogramme could only accomplish partially the outputs foreseen for 1992. WHO reported having established focal points within the agency. ITU reported that although it had an official focal point for TCDC, the use of the modality within the organization was the responsibility of all officials in charge of project design and implementation. DESD mentioned maintaining the focal point arrangement established formally in its predecessor, UNDTCD, since 1987. UNCHS indicated that the Coordinators of its four Geographic Units of the Technical Cooperation Division have been assigned to act as focal points within the organization for TCDC activities in the light of their operational linkages with national Governments, country institutions and UNDP field offices. UNESCO reported that its focal point was within the United Nations Division of the Bureau for Coordination of Operational Activities. UNFPA indicated having assigned an officer as focal point. UPU reported having no focal point.

51. Most of the agencies indicated having participated in the UNDS focal points meeting held at UNDP headquarters in New York, in July 1992, which focused its discussions primarily on new guidelines for TCDC and the revised questionnaire on TCDC activities of the UNDS agencies and organizations.

2. Support to institution-building and strengthening

52. The organizations were requested to list the regional, subregional and interregional institutions that they have supported during the reporting period and which have significant TCDC efforts and to quantify the specific support

provided. They were also asked to highlight the TCDC features, inputs and lessons learned of three of their most successful examples. Most agencies reported assisting several regional and interregional institutions in their TCDC activities. However, it continues to be difficult to assess the support in quantitative terms. Out of the 14 reports received, only 6 provided some statistical data according to the format: FAO, ITU, UPU, WHO, UNCHS and UNESCO. The organizations continue to indicate the same difficulties in providing figures as in earlier reporting periods: TCDC activities are included in other technical cooperation projects; difficult costing of TCDC modalities separately; difficulty to draw a line between TCDC activities that support institution-building and those which support the exchange of data and experience via networking (as reported by UNESCO); incompatibility between the requested reporting period and the financial year of the organizations.

53. The statistical data received are summarized in table 5 below. Although incomplete, the available estimates show that six organizations have supported 85 institutions in different geographic regions, acting in different fields and the financial support amounts to some $12.7 million for the reporting period. The highest financial support indicated was from FAO: $11.3 million, of which FAO Regular Programmes, $647,000; and extrabudgetary resources, $10.6 million.

54. Most of the reporting organizations indicated having carried out some successful examples of support to institution-building and strengthening. As examples, UNCTAD reported: the programme with the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) secretariat to develop trade among eastern and southern African countries; Assistance to the Tumen River Area Development Programme; and the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community or PLACIEX in Latin America. FAO reported the example of Analysis Quality Assurance Programme/Check Sample Programme for aflatoxin analysis in foods in Asia; this programme has been launched and coordinated by the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) in Hyderabad, India; eight laboratories from countries of the Asia region participated in the programme at their own cost, with a minimum financial input from FAO ($6,000 for 1991-1992). UPU indicated the example of the Asian-Pacific Postal Training Centre (APPTC) in Bangkok that trains middle-level management staff of the Asia-Pacific region, which is financed by the countries and to which UPU gave assistance in the form of fellowships. UNDESD reported the example of the Hydraulics Laboratory in Paraguay active in the region in the development of mathematical models. Among the examples mentioned by UNCHS was its regional project in Asia, Public/Private Partnership in Expanding Access to Housing Finance, in which UNCHS has promoted the establishment of a coalition of housing finance institutions from the region (public and private) including informal sector credit organizations. UNESCO mentioned, as a successful example, a regional framework for cooperation between 154 Asian national press institutes and the Press Foundation of Asia that was established following a UNESCO-funded ($50,000) meeting of these specialists in Katmandu, Nepal, in 1992.

Table 5

Support to institution-building and strengthening from the organizations (other than UNDP) of the UNDS

Agency	Number of Institutions Supported	Areas Served	Kinds and Amounts of Assistance during Reporting Period					
			Financial	Expatriate Staff		Value of Equipment ($)	Other ($)	Total ($)
				No.	Value ($)			
FAO	20	4 Developing Regions	11,322,000	-	2,746,000	449,000	8,127,000	11,322,000
UPU	1	Asia	43,000	-	-	-	-	43,000
WHO	17	Disease, nutrition, drugs, water sanitation	200,000 yearly	-	-	-	-	400,000
UNCHS	15	Urban mgmt., house financing, shelter strategy	340,000	5	-	-	-	340,000
UNESCO	20	Hydrology, oceanography, press & radio, education	470,000	-	-	-	-	470,000
ITU	12	Human Res. Devlpt. Management	-	20	195,000		-	195,000
TOTAL	85					-	-	12,770,000

3. Support to networking arrangements

55. The organizations were asked to give information on the networking arrangements that they supported during the reporting period. Although some of the responding agencies indicated having supported networking arrangements during the period, statistical and financial data were, however, lacking for the same reasons as mentioned above. Only seven agencies tried to respond according to the format: FAO, ITU, UNDESD, UPU, WHO, UNCHS and UNESCO, as shown in table 6. The available estimates indicate that these seven agencies have supported over 77 networking arrangements for a total amount of $13.4 million. The highest figure was reported by FAO: $10.5 million, of which $3.3 million from FAO Regular Programme; and $7.2 million from extrabudgetary resources.

56. The agencies provided information on some of their most successful networking arrangements. UNCTAD reported that networking among trade promotion institutions was one of the major objectives in ITC's activities in the area of trade information. It gave, as example, AEANET, a trade information network linking the Asian countries, which was supported by ITC. As a successful example, FAO reported its support to the food crops network in Latin America and the Caribbean, which promotes germplasm exchanges in the region. WHO indicated several successful examples, including: the establishment, in the African region, of a network of regional diarrhoeal training units or centres in Ethiopia and Zambia for English-speaking countries; Cameroon and Zaire for French-speaking countries; and Angola for Portuguese-speaking countries. UNCHS reported, as one of its best examples in networking arrangements, the Phase II of its Urban Management Programme, which aims at strengthening networks of regional and local expertise in urban management and promoting a sustained programme of analysis and interchange of experience. UNESCO indicated, for example, its support to networking arrangements in the exchange of data in seismology and knowledge in earthquake-risk reduction, and particularly its financial support to the Regional Centre for Seismology in South America. UNDESD reported that it has been very active in the promotion of TCDC networking through its activities, especially networks focusing on specific issues, such as critical poverty, and building up social indicators for development planning. As an example of support, UNDESD indicated a network established in 1991 to undertake policy-oriented research in social indicators among Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras.

Table 6

Support to networking arrangements from organizations (other than UNDP) of the UNDS

Agency	Number of Networking Arrangements	Amounts of Support Provided						
		Expatriate Staff		Specific Activities		Other	Agency Funds Mobilized ($)	Total ($)
		Nber	$	Nber	$			
FAO	-	-	3,904,000	-	3,344,000	3,325,000	3,340,000	10,573,000
UPU	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WHO	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNCHS	25	-	-	25	560,000	-	560,000	560,000
UNESCO	25	-	320,000	-	640,000	-	320,000	960,000
ITU	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNDESD	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,300,000
TOTAL	77	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,393,000

4. Meetings, seminars and workshops

57. The agencies were requested to report on the promotional (i.e., organized for the express purpose of enhancing TCDC opportunities; or programming of TCDC activities) and the operational (i.e., organized mainly by Governments of developing countries to exchange scientific or technical information, with only complementary external support) meetings, seminars and workshops that they supported during the reporting period, and to provide information on their most successful examples. The agencies reported having supported a number of meetings, seminars and workshops. There seemed, however, to be a difficulty in drawing a line between promotional and operational activities. In addition, only eight agencies have given some statistical and financial data: FAO, ITU, UNDESD, UPU, WHO, UNCHS, WHO and UNESCO as shown in table 7. The estimates of this table indicate that these eight agencies have supported 195 promotional activities for a total amount of assistance of $5.3 million and 755 operational activities for a total of $4.5 million.

58. The organizations reported different successful examples to highlight the TCDC features, inputs and lessons learned. Among the examples that UNFPA indicated having assisted is a seminar on China's population census which brought together census officials from a large number of countries to learn from the unique census experience of China. FAO reported, as examples, training and seminars on the control of street foods and other products of potential risk in Latin America and the Caribbean. FAO indicated that the control of such products was receiving particular attention due to the cholera epidemic that

emerged in 1991 in Peru and that spread rapidly throughout the region. Relating to this, FAO mentioned that it supported a basic training course in inspection techniques in El Salvador in 1992 and a subregional training course on hygienic practices hosted by the Government of Honduras. UNCHS reported the example of workshops held in various regions as part of its Global Support Programme for the Formulation of National Shelter Strategies; the most recent of these workshops was held for Arab States in Cairo in December 1992 with over 50 participants, hosted by the Government of Egypt and the League of Arab States. UNDESD reported a few successful examples, including two interregional workshops organized in collaboration with the Special Unit for TCDC in April 1992 in Jamaica and June 1992 in Fiji, on guidelines for integrated macroeconomic planning and management for sustainable development in island developing countries. As a successful example of TCDC meetings, UNESCO reported a regional seminar on "Reading comprehension for children in rural and marginal-urban areas" held in Chile in 1992, attended by 13 leading specialists in reading from Latin America and the Caribbean. UNESCO indicated that its technical and financial support to this meeting amounted to about $20,000.

Table 7

Support to meetings, seminars and workshops for organizations (other than UNDP) of the UNDS

Agency	Promotional				Operational		
	No. assisted during period	No. of countries participating	Total of assistance	% of own participants	No. assisted during period	No. of countries participating	Amount ($) of assistance
FAO	30	Most member countries	2,483,000		37	Most countries	2,080,000
UPU	0				0		
WHO	1 (to come in 1993)	All member countries					
UNCHS	97	40 Asian 30 Latin American 15 Caribbean	160,000	12%	700	46	1,500,000
WMO					12	Most countries	868,000
UNESCO	14		210,000				
UNDESD	53	All regions	2,600,000		3	4	9,000
ITU	0				3	6	12,000
Total	195		5,453,000		755		4,469,000

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5. Sensitization on TCDC

59. The organizations were invited to provide information on their sensitization activities on TCDC. Six agencies submitted some of the required information: FAO, ITU, UNDESD, WHO, UPU and WHO. As shown in table 8, FAO, ITU, UNDESD and WMO gave some limited statistical data. FAO reported that during 1991/92, a total of eight seminars were held: participants included 110 national Project Directors, 11 government officials and 36 programme staff (country level) of FAO and UNDP. FAO indicated that TCDC was also included in a training course in project formulation, monitoring, evaluation and implementation held in Kuala Lumpur in 1993 for 13 participants. UNDESD mentioned having participated in different TCDC sensitization activities which aimed at generating TCDC awareness and application, such as the interregional project for training of junior statisticians and programmers from developing countries in other developing countries. ITU indicated that the African Telecommunication Development Conference for the Arab States (Cairo, 1992) and the similar Conference for American countries (Acapulco, 1992) were occasions to sensitize decision-makers on the potentials of TCDC as a cost-effective modality for technical cooperation. WHO reported that in order to ascertain the volume of technical cooperation activities outside the organization's involvement, its Technical Cooperation Department conducted a survey within its member countries. It mentioned that the results revealed a growing awareness and increasing volume of TCDC activities. UPU reported that its sensitization on TCDC is done through its programming and sectoral support missions and through its Regional Advisers, who promote TCDC and facilitate exchange of know-how among developing countries. WHO indicated that sensitization on TCDC is expected to receive more attention in the near future, especially after its interregional meeting on TCDC in health, scheduled in Jakarta in February 1993.

Table 8

Support to sensitization on TCDC from organizations (other than UNDP) of the UNDS

Agency	Training/Orientation for Nationals				In Country Training Sessions			
	No. of Events	Amt. of Assistance ($)	Kind of Assistance	No. of Partp.	No. of Events	Amt. of Assistance ($)	Kind of Assistance	No. of Participants
FAO	8	-	Seminars	157	1	-	Training	13
WMO	1	-	Survey	-	-	-	-	-
ITU	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNDESD	4	196,000	Technical	110	11	-	Technical	350

6. Other support

60. The organizations were asked to indicate quantitatively any support they provided during the reporting period in: strengthening of TCDC focal points; development of information systems; facilitating procurement from developing countries; private sector. FAO indicated that it does not have specific funds for strengthening TCDC focal points in developing countries as such and that national TCDC focal points are always contacted for discussion during duty travel of FAO staff. As to the development of information systems, FAO indicated the following systems as relevant to TCDC, although they also include information from developed countries: International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS); Current Agricultural Research Information System (CARIS); Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System (ASFIS); Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts Database. FAO reported also that it had substantially increased the proportion of its procurement from developing countries (6.5 per cent in 1990, 21 per cent in 1991 and 34 per cent in 1992) and that it will continue to make every effort to increase its level of procurement from developing countries. WMO reported that it is continuously encouraging procurement from developing countries and that, despite the fact that most of the sophisticated equipment can be procured only from developed countries, over 18 per cent of the total value of equipment and subcontracts during 1991/92 were procured from developing countries. As support provided for development of information systems, UNCHS reported its Roster of National Urban Management Expertise (UMEX), which includes a selective listing for each developing country of urban management expertise categorized as individual experts, training/research institutions and NGOs, initially in the following four areas of expertise: land management; infrastructure management; municipal finance and administration; urban environment. UNDESD reported having supported strengthening of TCDC focal points for a total amount of assistance of approximately $80,000. It reported also, as an example of support to private sector and joint-venture, the project of dredging the Paraguay and Alto Parana Rivers, executed jointly by Argentina and Paraguay. ITU indicated having supported the development of four information systems for a total amount of $24,000.

B. Progress in UNDP

61. The UNDP Regional Bureaux and other units were invited to provide, for the reporting period, information on their activities in the use TCDC, operational constraints, the specific instructions put in place, and the recommended measures/changes for the coming two years. They were requested also to give some statistical data and cost estimates on the main types of TCDC activities. The Bureaux and other units that provided information are: Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA); Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP); Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBLAC); and UNIFEM. United Nations Volunteers (UNV) mentioned simply that the only TCDC activity that it supported was the TCDC Workshop on Sustainable Networks of Cooperation among Grassroots-Oriented NGOs of Developing Countries, held in Nepal in November 1991. The following is divided into progress made by UNDP headquarters and other units (except SU/TCDC) and progress made by the Special Unit for TCDC.

1. Progress made by UNDP headquarters

62. Extent to which TCDC is applied and policy adopted: RBA reported that the TCDC modality has been applied in some IPF-funded projects, particularly for regional procurement. RBAP indicated that nearly half of all Fourth Cycle projects in the Asia and Pacific region had some TCDC elements and that during the Fifth Cycle it is the intention of RBAP to increase the integration of TCDC modalities in achieving the outputs of programmes. RBLAC reported that the utilization of the TCDC modality in the implementation of projects and programmes has been a characteristic in the region and that during the Fourth Cycle, TCDC was increasingly used as an overall substantive framework for promoting the various regional and subregional integration efforts in the area. UNIFEM indicated that TCDC has been mainstreamed into its programmes and projects and that it is most likely to occur through participation in training and/or networking arrangements.

63. Increase, since 1991, in projects implemented through TCDC: RBA reported that there has been a modest increase in country-IPF-funded project implementation through the TCDC modality since 1990, but that TCDC has been a significant component in some of the regional projects, particularly in strengthening networking relationships with similar institutions or government research centres. RBAP indicated that during the Fifth Cycle, TCDC will be an important consideration in the preparation of the basic issues paper for any given programme, rather than being introduced only later as a modality for execution. RBAP mentioned, however, that, given the large size and technical complexity of the Fifth Cycle programmes, it is not anticipating most of the programme being implemented through TCDC. RBLAC reported that a mid-term review conducted in 1990 had found an impressive identification and use of high-level technical skills from the area to assist in programme implementation. RBLAC indicated also that at project level, TCDC use was being achieved through the increasing granting of subcontracts to Latin American and Caribbean firms and institutions and, whenever possible, the increasing purchase of equipment from the region. UNIFEM mentioned that TCDC has been mainstreamed into its programme rather than in individual projects.

64. Specific instructions for application of TCDC: RBA reported that in addition to having TCDC included under the special consideration section in all UNDP/RBA approved projects, it has emphasized the use of TCDC through various approaches: regional workshops, seminars and meetings to promote TCDC. RBAP indicated that nearly all regional programmes will have a management process whereby all implementing agents will meet annually to develop the following year's work plan and budget, and through this mechanism RPD will be monitoring the work plans of the executing agents for their use of TCDC modalities. RBLAC reported that Governments, during their meeting in Caracas in 1990 to evaluate the third regional programme, have stressed that TCDC should continue to be present in future activities of the regional programme. UNIFEM reported that its Mission Statement specifies that the identification of strategic goals and objectives and the underlying programme philosophy all contribute to the use of TCDC whenever possible.

65. Major operational constraints of using TCDC: RBA reported the following obstacles: (i) lack of funds for follow-up activities after the catalytic assistance from UNDP or other United Nations agencies has been exhausted;

(ii) the concept of TCDC is still misunderstood by many people, therefore more promotional activities are needed; (iii) most of ongoing TCDC activities have no reciprocity component and therefore they fall short of TCDC basic criteria; (iv) African Governments have not established sustainable TCDC focal points; and (v) the region lacks up-to-date information on TCDC capacities and needs. RBAP indicated the following constraints as possibly affecting the ability to initiate sustainable TCDC activities: (i) funding (especially foreign exchange for travel and communication); (ii) work methods and habits, administrative rules and regulations, management styles which may not be conducive to regular interplay and exchanges between institutions. UNIFEM reported that the cost associated with funding TCDC was the foremost operational constraint and that occasionally language and cultural norms that affect women's lives may also serve as constraints. RBLAC did not report any major constraints and mentioned that virtually in the entire portfolio of regional projects either under implementation or in the pipeline, the TCDC modality was present as an integral part of the regional programme's development strategy.

66. Specific measures/changes recommended for the coming two years in expanding the use of TCDC: RBA indicated that various general workshops are needed at both UNDP headquarters and the field level to expand the concept of TCDC, as in the case of the Global Environmental Fund (GEF). It mentioned also that SPR should be allocated to fund concrete umbrella projects to assist the Bureau in funding TCDC activities and that use of TCDC resources should be flexible to enable the Bureau to respond promptly to requests from the field offices. RBAP recommended: (i) SPR funds should focus on financing start-up activities for elements of larger programmes; (ii) the SU/TCDC should develop a substantive capacity (either in-house or through a "stable of consultants") to provide specific examples of institutions and capacities which could be used for various programme components; (iii) innovative training is needed and some design and implementation assistance may need to come from SU/TCDC. RBLAC recommended that in the light of the fact that adequate technical and managerial skills do exist in the region, TCDC should allow a better performance of the tasks facing individual countries, especially vis-à-vis critical issues such as governance, debt, poverty alleviation and modernization of the public sector.

67. Main types of TCDC activities: The Bureaux and other units were asked to provide statistical and financial information on the main types of activities (training, workshops and seminars, institutional strengthening, networking arrangements) carried out in furtherance of TCDC and on their TCDC umbrella projects and operational projects implemented with the use of the TCDC modality. Only RBA provided the complete requested information. RBA indicated having carried out, during the reporting period, the following activities: 7 training activities (total cost $300,000); 10 workshops and seminars ($500,000) and 30 networking arrangements ($1 million). RBA reported also three TCDC umbrella projects, approved during 1987-1992, for: food and agriculture sector ($440,000); promotion of TCDC activities ($781,000); and South-South trade promotion Africa/Latin America ($686,000). RBA indicated finally that five operational TCDC projects have been funded by UNDP/RBA. RBAP reported that statistics were not available for regional programmes and that they were available from the PPMS database and ad hoc query. It indicated having no TCDC umbrella projects in regional programmes. RBAP reported seven operational projects using TCDC; three of them to become operational in 1993 and one still under formulation. Without giving financial or statistical data, RBLAC

indicated that a number of TCDC training activities, workshops and networking arrangements have been carried out in collaboration with the Special Unit for TCDC. UNIFEM reported that figures were not available because TCDC was mainstreamed throughout UNIFEM's work and was not isolated as a separate category.

68. The Bureaux and other units that responded to the questionnaire reported on a few successful examples of projects applying the TCDC modality. RBA indicated that to date, its onchocerciasis project was the only activity that had successfully applied the TCDC modality. UNIFEM reported a number of selected examples in three geographic regions (Asia and Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean).

2. Special Unit for TCDC

69. The promotional work of the Special Unit for TCDC over the two years 1991-1992 covered a broad spectrum. It included assistance in the matching of capacities and needs between developing countries, the organizing of inter-country specific workshops, the expansion of training and sensitization on TCDC, and the further development of the TCDC-INRES database on developing country institutional capacities. These activities continued in 1992, the first year of UNDP's Fifth Programming Cycle (1992-1996). As part of the Fifth Cycle strategy for the promotion of TCDC, increased attention was given to supporting networking and twinning arrangements within groups of countries.

70. The Special Unit supported, during the period 1991-1992, eight capacities and needs-matching exercises in the important sectors such as: food and agriculture, mining and environment, technologies in health development, coconut development industry, training and management, and in small- and medium-scale enterprises in the manufacture of electric-electronic goods. With the support of the Special Unit, the developing countries were able to reach interregional and bilateral TCDC agreements which facilitated exchanges in training, studies, species exchanges, consultant services and some equipment. It also supported 37 specific workshops: 12 in Africa, 2 in Eastern and Central Europe, 6 in Asia and the Pacific and 17 in Latin America and the Caribbean. These workshops involved actual exchange of practical information, skills and technology.

71. Sensitization and information activities have been intensified, targeting Governments, the UNDS, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other key actors in the development process. At the same time, the Special Unit was pursuing a policy of decentralizing its sensitization and orientation activities and fully delegating them to Governments and UNDP field offices, with the Special Unit providing resource persons, orientation materials, such as a trainers' guide, audiovisual material and brochures.

72. The organization of national TCDC focal point meetings has been, and continues to be, one of the most important activities of the Special Unit. These workshops enable the focal points to have a clear understanding of their role and to be kept up to date on relevant decisions of United Nations bodies. During 1991-1992, meetings of focal points were held in three regions: one for Asia and the Pacific, held in Seoul in September 1991; one for the Arab region, held in Damascus in August 1992; and one for Latin America and the Caribbean,

held in Caracas in September 1992. The meeting for Africa was postponed to 1993 and was held last February in Addis Ababa.

73. The TCDC-INRES database continues to serve as a key source of information on capacities existing in developing countries. This database currently contains information on over 4,300 institutions in the developing world. INRES is also pursuing a policy of selected decentralization. The database has been installed at 15 outpost locations in Governments, UNDP field offices and United Nations agencies. Based on an in-depth evaluation, a major updating and qualitative improvement of the database is under way. The registrations for about 20 countries per year are undertaken using national consultants.

74. The information received by the Special Unit from Governments and UNDP Regional Bureaux (table 9) indicates that TCDC umbrella projects, national allocations, and IPF Allocation for TCDC are continuously increasing. The national allocation amounts to some $8.8 million for Latin America and the Caribbean; $30.8 million for Asia and the Pacific; $1.5 million for Arab States; and $175,000 for Africa, as reported by some countries of these regions. These regions have some 35 TCDC umbrella projects totalling $22.5 million.

Table 9

Special Unit for TCDC
Global information on TCDC

Region	Umbrella Projects (UNDP)				National Allocation for TCDC	
	No.	Total ($)	IPF ($)	CS ($)	Total ($)	IPF $)
Africa	11	5,000,000	5,000,000		175,000 a/	-
Latin America & Caribbean	9	9,936,000	4,294,000	5,642,000	8,789,000 b/	-
Asia & Pacific	8	3,203,000	3,203,000	3,203,000	30,830,000 c/	-
Arab States & Europe	7	4,369,000	-	-	1,500,000 d/	-
Total	35	22,508,000	-	-	41,294,000	-

a/ Reported by Senegal and Sao Tome and Principe.

b/ Reported by six countries in the Fourth Cycle (Argentina, Brazil, Jamaica, Mexico, Uruguay, Venezuela).

c/ Reported by Korea, Thailand and China.

d/ Reported by Tunisia.

75. The Special Unit for TCDC undertook an extensive evaluation of its practices and activities in 1991. Major categories of activities were evaluated by independent consultants whose recommendations have since then been adopted. Programming exercises, TCDC-INRES mechanisms, the functioning of focal points, and sensitization and orientation activities were all carefully reviewed to bring about coherence, improved procedures and qualitative improvements in the support the Unit provides. The findings also serve as the basis for the preparation of a programming document and strategy approved by the Governing Council for the Fifth Programming Cycle at its special session of February 1992. The document outlines the priority areas, the criteria and the features of the strategy for the programming cycle. Within UNDP, TCDC is not only one of the six priority areas but is also the subject of special attention in programme and project preparation and approval including in the UNDP Action Committee, Policy and Operations Teams, and Project Appraisal Committees of Bureaux and of other units of UNDP.

76. Joint financing of activities and complementarity of efforts have been successfully encouraged with the major United Nations organizations, especially with FAO, UNDESD, WHO and UNIDO. In all these cases, the organizations shared, in addition to providing technical support, the costs of financing TCDC activities with the Special Unit. United Nations organizations contributed about half of the $1.2 million spent for 19 activities financed in 1992. Measures have been taken to transfer from Headquarters to field offices and national focal points, sensitization and orientation activities, instead of providing staff from New York Headquarters. Twelve people from the respective regions are now available as resource persons to help with sensitization and orientation activities. Greater emphasis is being given to studies and evaluation, especially in identifying successful and innovative activities and disseminating information.

77. The Unit's public information work has been greatly increased by the production of information material such as brochures, posters, focus newsletters and Cooperation South magazine. A video on TCDC for global use is under preparation.

78. Cooperation South is a thrice-yearly magazine focusing on TCDC and South-South cooperation generally. It has a global circulation of approximately 36,000, both in developed and developing countries, comprising readers from the following main groups: universities and colleges, research and training institutes, media, non-governmental organizations, government agencies and ministries, private sector firms, organizations of the United Nations system and other international bodies, professional and trade associations, and country missions to the United Nations. In addition, there is a significant section of readers who do not belong to these categories but are interested in development issues and South-South cooperation.

79. In 1992, over 3,000 officials, experts, etc. have participated in activities sponsored by the Special Unit. In all cases, the participants were from developing countries and the activities were organized by the Governments or the institutions of developing countries.

80. Since the adoption of BAPA, the importance and continued validity of TCDC for national and collective self-reliance has been repeatedly reaffirmed, most

prominently in 1989 by the United Nations General Assembly, and most recently in Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41. This resolution, which has been forwarded by a Special Unit's letter under signature of the Administrator to field offices, "calls upon all parties in the development effort to make concerted, planned and vigorous endeavours to benefit from utilization of the capacities of developing countries, by giving full support and first consideration to the use of the modality of TCDC".

C. Conclusions and recommendations

81. The information provided by the United Nations organizations shows clearly the increasingly high priority they attached to TCDC. Promotional and operational activities supported by or through the system are increasing, as indicated by the number and amount of the umbrella and operational projects.

82. Nearly all responding organizations reported having adopted or being in the process of adopting policies to accelerate the use of the TCDC modality in the implementation of programmes and projects at the country, regional and interregional levels. The UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, for instance, reported that in virtually its entire portfolio of regional projects either under implementation or in the pipeline, the use of the TCDC modality is an integral part of the regional programme's development strategy. The trend will be accelerated by intensified sensitization of national and United Nations agencies staff to the benefits and comparative advantage of TCDC.

83. The major operational constraints of utilizing the TCDC modality appear to be (i) the lack of funds for follow-up activities after catalytic assistance provided; (ii) the need for stronger commitment and effort to use/apply the modality.

84. As in previous reporting periods, it is still difficult to estimate the overall UNDS support in statistical and financial terms because, quite often, TCDC components are either part of larger projects or it is applied as a modality for execution. The United Nations organizations are making efforts to give a minimum of standardized statistical data to be used for measuring the progress.

85. Although questionnaires have been revised in consultation with United Nations organizations, some of the responding organizations did not comply with the proposed format and reported according to their own format. Although substantial information is still given, the non-standardization of responses increases the difficulty to assess the progress in a comparative manner.

86. Most of the organizations operate on a calendar-year basis, and do not have final data on a given year's activities until late March of the following year, which does not fit in with the timing of the High-level Committee's sessions, and required deadline for submitting the information for the preparation of the progress report. It is therefore suggested to review the timing for submitting the required information in the month of June.

87. The measures being taken to strengthen the substantive role of the Special Unit in identifying and disseminating information on successful experiences and innovative approaches and undertaking analytical work are to be expanded and given full support by all parties.

88. The trend towards much greater complementarity in efforts and resources between the various United Nations organizations is a welcome development since it ensures more substantive support to activities being undertaken.

III. ROLE OF WOMEN IN TCDC

89. The following has been prepared in compliance with decision 7/7 of the High-level Committee requesting the Administrator to report at the eighth session on progress made in the role of women in technical cooperation among developing countries.

90. A number of TCDC activities were supported by the Special Unit to encourage the participation of women in development through TCDC arrangements. Funding has been provided for the Grass-roots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS) networking activities aimed at accelerating development by strengthening grass-roots women's approaches to solving their own problems and by helping them provide leadership in the development of their communities.

91. The Special Unit for TCDC has played a catalytic role in supporting the South Asia network of eight NGOs in that region organized by GROOTS India (the Working Women's Forum WWF). This workshop established the South Asia Task Force and the Newsletter for GROOTS South Asia which is distributed to over 500 organizations world wide. More recently, TCDC support was provided to a workshop hosted by the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration and the Lolonyo Women's Club for the promotion of women's organizations for effective community leadership and involvement in the development process.

92. Women are in key positions to promote and implement TCDC activities. Numerous national TCDC focal points are also women. In the decision-making process, Governments, NGOs and the private sector in the Latin America and Caribbean region have women in the Directorate for promoting and implementing TCDC activities. The coordinator of a recent workshop in Mexico on development of enterprise and industrial parks is a woman. The TCDC workshop on energy sustainable rural development was coordinated by a woman from the Argentine Ministry for Science and Technology and the main users of solar heating/drying and wind power are women in the rural areas.

93. In addition, a number of the United Nations organizations reported TCDC activities integrating women and particularly UNIFEM which indicated the following successful examples joining women in development and TCDC activities in the three regions, Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean:

- In the process of moving from a centrally planned economy to a free market economy, women leaders from the Mongolian Women's Federation learned Indonesian experiences of women's organizations in micro-enterprises. This activity also received support from ESCAP;

- To learn about small enterprise development and credit programmes, the leaders of the Association of Rural Women Entrepreneurs (ARWEs) of the United Republic of Tanzania went to Kenya. They also went to the Grameen Bank to learn about credit initiatives to be applied in the United Republic of Tanzania;

- To facilitate the establishment of a regional network, Caribbean and African women shared their experience with women from Brazil and the Dominican Republic, relating to the elimination of sexual and domestic violence.

94. The encouragement of the participation of women in all the activities financed to promote TCDC is a basic policy in all the United Nations organizations.

Annex I

List of countries that provided information

A. Developing countries

Africa	Asia and Pacific	Latin America and Caribbean	Arab States	Europe
Angola	China	Argentina	Bahrain	Cyprus
Benin	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Brazil	Iraq	
Botswana	Maldives	Chile	Jordan	
Burkina Faso	Mongolia	Colombia	Syrian Arab Republic	
Cape Verde	Pakistan	El Salvador	Tunisia	
Ethiopia	Philippines	Guatemala	Yemen	
Lesotho	Republic of Korea	Honduras		
Mozambique	Samoa	Jamaica		
Rwanda	Thailand	Mexico		
Sao Tome and Principe	Viet Nam	Panama		
Senegal		Peru		
Seychelles		Uruguay		
		Venezuela		

B. Developed countries

Australia
Finland
France
Germany
Ireland
Norway
Spain
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Annex II

List of United Nations organizations that provided information on their TCDC activities

UNDP HEADQUARTERS AND AFFILIATED BODIES

RBA

RBAP

RBLAC

UNIFEM

UNV

UNDS ORGANIZATIONS

FAO

INSTRAW

ITU

UNCHS

UNCTAD

UNDESD

UNESCO

UNFPA

UNIDO

UNITAR

UPU

WFP (no comments)

WHO

WMO

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REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE BUENOS AIRES PLAN OF ACTION AND DECISIONS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE

Addendum

Progress made by the Sistema Económico Latinoamericano (SELA) in TCDC activities during the period 1991-1992

1. General activities. SELA reported that, in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, it had established guidelines to intensify the use of the TCDC mechanism as a useful and flexible tool to support the economic and social development of member countries. These guidelines were incorporated in a document entitled "TCDC regional guidelines and strategies for the 1990s" and forwarded to the Special Unit for TCDC as the region's input for the meeting of Governments' experts held in Morocco in February 1993, and for the preparation of the TCDC strategy paper by the Special Unit.

2. The TCDC strategy envisaged by the member countries of SELA aims mainly at: strengthening of the TCDC national focal points; creation of multisectoral national commissions; preparation of manuals on the existing regional capabilities and resources; allocation of national financial resources for the development of TCDC; integration of the TCDC modality in the Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) supported programmes and projects.

3. SELA indicated that within its framework and since 1986, meetings of the directors of international technical cooperation have been held. With technical and financial support from the Special Unit for TCDC, these meetings have led to the institutionalization and consolidation of a consultation mechanism on TCDC policies and identification of bilateral and joint activities.

4. Promotional activities. SELA reported having carried out three main promotional activities during the reporting period:

(a) The annual meetings of the directors of international technical cooperation, which determined the need to initiate a systematic plan aimed at strengthening the management capacity of the national focal points for TCDC. Each of the meetings was attended by 100 participants from the 27 SELA member States and 35 representatives from international, regional and subregional organizations. The total cost ($250,000) of the meetings was shared by the Special Unit for TCDC and SELA;

(b) The meeting of TCDC national focal points, held in 1992 and attended by 40 representatives from SELA member countries. The cost of the meeting amounted to $60,000 and was shared by the Special Unit for TCDC and SELA;

(c) The annual meetings of the coordination mechanism of international organizations and regional forums that support TCDC activities. The meetings, which resulted in joint actions that promote TCDC in the region, were attended by 25 representatives of international, regional and subregional organizations. The total cost of the meetings, estimated at $30,000, was shared by the participating organizations.

5. Operational activities. As an important TCDC operational activity, SELA reported the programming and negotiations exercise in the health sector entitled "TCDC Regional Meeting for Technological Development in the Health Sector". This activity, known also as the "Convergence programme", was held at Santiago, Chile, from 6 to 10 July 1992. The programme is a mechanism designed to encourage health technology development in Latin America and the Caribbean through technical cooperation among countries of the region. The exercise resulted in the identification of 8 regional projects, 56 subregional projects and 384 bilateral agreements in different health technological areas. For the implementation of the agreements signed, the sponsoring organizations agreed to create an Inter-Agency Committee for Health Technology Development. A total number of 400 persons representing Governments, the private sector, universities and international, regional and subregional organizations attended the four subregional meetings and the regional meeting. The total cost of the exercise, estimated at $600,000, was shared by the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the Special Unit for TCDC, SELA and the Government of Chile.

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CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

SUMMARY

The present document is submitted in compliance with decisions 7/9, 7/8 and 7/2 of the High-level Committee regarding:

I. International Consultative Meeting on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries held in Morocco in 1993 (decision 7/9)

II. The extent to which the recommendations of the report of the South Commission pertaining to technical cooperation among developing countries can be implemented (decision 7/8)

III. Progress of preparation of guidelines for the review of policies and procedures in those organizations of the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries (decision 7/1)

IV. Intergovernmental programming exercise for technical cooperation among developing countries (7/2)

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I. International Consultative Meeting on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries held in Morocco in 1993

1. In its decision 7/9, 1/ the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries welcomed the offer of the Government of Morocco to host a consultative meeting on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) in 1992 and invited the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to report to the High-level Committee at its eighth session on the outcome of the meeting. Owing to various constraints, the Moroccan Government opted to hold, with the support of the Special Unit for TCDC, an Expert Group Meeting in lieu of the larger international meeting proposed. The Expert Group, which included participants from all the regions, met on 10 and 11 February 1993 at Rabat. Mr. Amaziane of Morocco was elected to chair the meeting. It was further agreed that the record of its deliberations should reflect the diversity of views presented rather than an set of agreed recommendations or consensus views.

2. The Group reviewed the status of TCDC and exchanged views on ways and means to enhance the use of TCDC. The meeting addressed important aspects of TCDC, particularly the environment for TCDC, constraints, and possible measures to enhance it.

The climate for TCDC

3. The Group took stock of the current global economic realities and noted that:

(a) The emergence of the transitional economies in Eastern Europe and Central Asia opens a "small window" for opportunities for TCDC;

(b) Increased cooperation among regional economic groupings and new trade blocs of developed and developing partners were changing the global realities. While new trade blocs of developing and developed countries are welcome, the risk of marginalizing weak economies is genuine;

(c) Poor economic performance in the 1980s and the consequent downturn in growth have adversely affected TCDC;

(d) Greater emphasis by the United Nations on humanitarian and social issues is pushing development issues to the back seat while the shortage of resources globally makes TCDC even more relevant.

Progress in TCDC

4. The Group reviewed progress in TCDC since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries 2/ and concluded that:

(a) Significant progress in the promotional work of TCDC has been achieved through bilateral and regional groups, with the supportive role played by the United Nations system. Because of acquisition and expansion of expertise and

capacities, developing countries now offer each other varied, competent and appropriate technical resources;

(b) A strategy for the 1990s for developing countries could be anchored on three elements: close linkage between TCDC and Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC) concentration on regional and subregional cooperation, and exploration of new areas of TCDC interventions. The principal ideas put forward are the following:

(i) National or regional institutions with capacity to deliver TCDC should be supported and strengthened. Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) resources should also be used for this purpose;

(ii) National focal points should be strengthened so that they can effectively coordinate all TCDC activities in a country;

(iii) Triangular cooperation should be explored to promote TCDC. Bilateral or multilateral resources should be used to obtain expert services or training facilities under the TCDC modality;

(iv) Sensitization of developing country officials and leaders at high policy levels should be emphasized;

(v) Field offices of UNDP and United Nations agencies should take a greater interest in promoting TCDC in line with the Economic and Social Council directive (resolution 1992/41);

(vi) To meet foreign exchange needs of the TCDC programme within and beyond regions, a trust fund should be established with catalytic contributions from some developing countries, which may volunteer to lead the way;

(vii) The idea of an information network for the South dealing with economic and social information in countries at the country level, business and development opportunities and education should be explored.

II. The extent to which the recommendations of the report of the South Commission pertaining to technical cooperation among developing countries can be implemented

Introduction

5. In its decision 7/8, the High-level Committee invited the Administrator of UNDP, in close cooperation with the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, to prepare a report on the extent to which the recommendations of the report of the South Commission 3/ pertaining to TCDC could be implemented.

6. Since TCDC is South-South cooperation in the technical cooperation area, many of the recommendations are broadly relevant. However, very few of the South Commission report recommendations are specifically directed to technical

cooperation activities per se as distinguished from South-South cooperation, which has a more general political, economic and social application. It should further be noted that the Commission's report, which is founded on the conviction that it is the developing countries themselves that are the main actors in South-South cooperation, directs its recommendations mostly to the developing countries themselves. This, in turn, means that the implementation of its recommendations will largely depend on the commitment, policies and specific actions at the national level.

7. In response to decision 7/8 of the High-level Committee, UNDP has taken supportive measures to make the report known within and outside the United Nations system. The Special Unit financed the purchase of 2,000 copies of the report and had them distributed through UNDP field offices to Governments and institutions of developing countries. The Special Unit also arranged the visit by the Chairman of the Commission, former President Julius Nyerere, to UNDP on 20 November 1991. The Chairman's visit provided an excellent opportunity for the senior staff of UNDP to be informed about and sensitized to the far-reaching implications of the report and its recommendations. Cooperation South also carried a feature article on the report.

8. The report points out that organizations of the United Nations system have not given high priority in the past to TCDC. As reported at the seventh session of the High-level Committee in TCDC/7/2, TCDC is increasingly given priority in the programmes and activities of each United Nations organization.

9. The programme of action for TCDC described in the South Commission report contains a number of recommendations which are being implemented and which pose no particular problems of implementation. The following are particularly noteworthy as far as TCDC is concerned:

(a) South Commission recommendation: Each developing country should reflect in its development plans and national policies an explicit commitment to South-South cooperation.

Implementation: The responsibility for implementation of this recommendation rests with Governments. Each country can effectively engage in South-South cooperation or TCDC when it identifies priority sectors and determines its capacities and needs to offer or receive services, expertise, facilities, etc. These need to be reflected in national development plans if they are to gain attention and ensure commitment of the implementing government institutions. While a number of Governments have reported that they have a clear policy on use of the TCDC modality, most Governments still do not have explicit policies on TCDC.

(b) South Commission: Developing countries should give to one government ministry or department responsibility for coordinating action within the country arising from the commitment to South-South cooperation.

Implementation: Most developing countries have designated TCDC national focal points and a number also have sectoral focal points in such ministries as health, agriculture, and the environment. While some countries' focal points are quite active and well developed, in many cases national focal points have not been established at a level in the government structure that would enable

them to give leadership and effectively catalyse TCDC activities. Support is being provided for the establishment and strengthening of TCDC national focal points by the Special Unit in cooperation with the Governments through the organization of regional meetings for focal points. In the past two years, four regional meetings of TCDC national focal points have been supported by the Special Unit for TCDC. These meetings enable focal points to share experiences, establish contacts, be apprised of current developments, and receive information about successful TCDC experiences. The programmes for sensitization and orientation of officials at the national level which are supported by the Special Unit for TCDC are also being decentralized to TCDC national focal points and field offices. United Nations development system agencies are also assisting in the establishment and strengthening of TCDC focal points at the sectoral level.

(c) South Commission: Use should be made of the South's educational institutions and priority should be given to identification and development of selected centres of excellence.

Implementation: Regional projects, network and twinning arrangements support to a large extent the strengthening of institutions to become centres with particular specialization or excellence. Many of the United Nations organizations have provided significant support in their areas of competence for this purpose. The Special Unit for TCDC will continue to provide increased support in the 1992-1996 programming cycle to a number of institutions which will be selected for their potential or available competence to undertake TCDC activities in integrated priority sectors.

(d) South Commission: All forms of South-South trade should be promoted and facilitated.

Implementation: The promotion of South-South trade is one of the priority areas for support from the resources managed by the Special Unit for TCDC. Support is provided through capacities- and needs-matching activities, subject-specific workshops, and financial support to the development of a trade information network in the South. Three workshops on subjects related to South-South trade will be carried out in 1993 in Latin America and the Arab States region. The mandate and activities of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT focus on South-South trade promotion.

(e) South Commission: Cooperation among business enterprises of the South should be promoted.

Implementation: The United Nations system is also encouraging and supporting the participation of the private sector in TCDC. In the case of UNDP, financial support is provided for activities that address problems of privatization and enhance cooperation among business institutions of the South. An interregional workshop organized by private sector institutions was supported to share experiences on technology parks and business incubators. A capacities- and needs-matching exercise, supported by the Special Unit for TCDC and the participating developing countries, brought together small- and medium-scale private enterprises. The participation of the private sector in UNDP programmes is widely encouraged and thus applies to the activities supported to promote and apply TCDC.

(f) South Commission: A review of food security and related issues should be initiated.

Implementation: Apart from the wide-ranging TCDC activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in this sector, the Special Unit identifies it as a priority area for support for the current programming cycle. Three capacities- and needs-matching exercises during the past two years dealt with agriculture and food security.

III. Preparation of guidelines for the review of policies and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning TCDC

10. The High-level Committee, in its decision 7/1, recommended to the Governing Council of UNDP the convening in 1992 of a special meeting of TCDC focal points of the organizations of the United Nations development system to prepare guidelines for the review of policies and procedures in those organizations concerning TCDC.

11. Accordingly, the fifth TCDC focal point meeting of United Nations organizations was convened in New York, on 15 and 16 July 1992, with the participation by nine TCDC focal points the United Nations development system: Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Labour Organisation (ILO); United Nations Department for Economic and Social Development (UNDESD); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); and World Health Organization (WHO).

12. The meeting, after reviewing a draft report on the status of policies and procedures currently in use in United Nations organizations, noted the need to make a concerted system-wide effort to review policies and procedures concerning TCDC and to take distinct measures to ensure that specific operational guidelines are developed to facilitate the use of the TCDC modality in all programmes and projects. In doing so, four prerequisites were noted at the meeting. First, the application of a common system-wide definition of TCDC and its different categories, particularly the interpretation of the Intergovernmental Expert Group by the High-level Committee. Secondly, a check-list of core policy elements to be used to enable future reviews of policy to be made in a comparable and systematic manner. The following elements may be considered: training, financing, focal points, data and information, networking. Thirdly, each organization should issue new self-contained instructions on TCDC for the use of all its staff. Finally, each organization should strengthen its internal system of monitoring and review of TCDC.

13. The United Nations development system focal points agreed on a set of draft guidelines. These draft guidelines were submitted to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) for review and are now being transmitted to the eighth session of the High-level Committee on TCDC for its consideration and adoption and subsequent implementation by the United Nations development system

organizations. The following are the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures concerning TCDC:

Training

Existing TCDC-related policies contain significant training components.

(a) There should be regular in-house orientation and awareness seminars for operational staff on TCDC;

(b) The seminars should include: approaches, methods and techniques of TCDC; applicability of the TCDC modality to specific situations, both promotional and operational; TCDC procedures; cost-effectiveness and comparative advantage of the TCDC modality;

(c) TCDC training should be extended to field staff;

(d) Where possible, training should be extended to national and sectoral focal points and carried out at the regional, subregional or country level;

(e) Training material should be exchanged among organizations, and joint training programmes should be organized.

Financing

1. The main source of funds for promotional as well as operational TCDC activities is UNDP. Indicative Planning Figures (IPFs) at the country, intercountry and interregional levels and Special Programme Resources (SPR) funds.

(a) The potential for implementation of IPF-financed projects through TCDC should be fully exploited;

(b) The existing procedures and instructions in the UNDP programme and projects manual should be reviewed and expanded for this purpose. The utilization of country IPFs for TCDC through TCDC umbrella projects or the use of the TCDC modality should be encouraged;

(c) Greater complementarity between UNDP and agency resources should be further strengthened;

(d) The utilization of TCDC in regular programmes and projects for which financing is available should be given priority.

2. Organizations in the United Nations development system have been able to utilize other sources of financing for their TCDC activities.

(a) Greater efforts should be made to mobilize additional financial resources for TCDC;

(b) Each organization should endeavour to provide a core budget for its TCDC activities from its regular programme budget resources. This core

budget should cover: TCDC focal point, catalytic or promotional funds and some funds for operational activities;

(c) Organizations should actively promote and facilitate the establishment of "national currency funds" especially for institutional networking;

(d) Trust funds and bilateral sources should be pursued, where possible, for institutional development, networking and twinning arrangements among developing country institutions.

Focal points

1. Organizations have adopted varying internal mechanisms, mainly through the agency TCDC focal point mechanism, for promoting their TCDC activities. There are differences in level, authority and size of TCDC units or focal points. It is important to assign the focal points clear terms of reference, and if possible, to standardize core functions. It is equally important that they have access to the organization's senior decision makers.

The focal point as a rule should:

(a) Assist in the formulation of TCDC policy, strategy and programme;

(b) Coordinate the promotion, monitoring and reporting on the organization's TCDC activities;

(c) Liaise with and assist other operational or technical units as well as field offices to provide advice and information;

(d) Manage the organization's earmarked "TCDC promotional funds", especially in their seed money role, and perform a supportive role in the case of other funds;

(e) Identify, design and disseminate innovative TCDC approaches for promotional as well as operational activities;

(f) Organize training on the TCDC modality;

(g) Analyse and monitor TCDC activities and prepare progress reports;

(h) Liaise with UNDP and other organizations on TCDC and perform representational functions in inter-agency and intergovernmental TCDC meetings.

2. UNDP should promote:

(a) Regular coordination and consultation among United Nations development system TCDC focal points;

(b) Organize annual meetings of United Nations development system TCDC focal points;

(c) Promote coordination among United Nations development system TCDC focal points and national and sectoral focal points.

Data and information

Large numbers of TCDC information systems and data banks have been established by different organizations. Inventories and directories of institutions and facilities have been compiled and country compendia prepared.

(a) Arrangements should be made for improving, expanding and updating existing information on capacities, including inventories and directories of institutions on a systematic and continuing basis;

(b) Arrangements should be made for periodic assessment of the relevance and effectiveness of the information for promotional or operational TCDC activities.

Networking

A good deal of networking of institutions has been taking place among institutions in developing countries, both at the initiative of the countries themselves and also due to the promotional efforts of the organizations in the United Nations development system. This type of TCDC arrangement offers opportunities for innovative activities for applying TCDC, especially in implementing long-term development programmes and projects. Every effort should be made to transfer full management and financial responsibility of networks to member institutions. Network arrangements should provide for cost recovery and continuing institutional development without external assistance.

Procedures

In most case, procedures are related to the organization's specific role, the type of intervention and the source of funds. There are no separate procedures specific to TCDC in any organization. While UNDP has laid down guidelines and criteria for the use of IPF and SPR funds, these are meant mainly for developing countries and for UNDP's internal use.

Some new instructions and procedures will, however, be required for the United Nations development system (a) to treat TCDC as an alternative in project identification and formulation; (b) to make TCDC a modality for the implementation of programmes and projects by ensuring, as required by the General Assembly, that the modality is given first consideration by member countries and organizations of the United Nations development system; (c) to promote networking and twinning of institutions of developing countries; and (d) to strengthen the role of UNDP field offices in assisting Governments in adopting and using the TCDC modality in all programmes and projects.

It will be useful to articulate the utilization of regular programme budget funds in the context of TCDC activities with clear criteria and guidelines on the type of interventions to be financed, formats for

proposals, processing and approval authority. These should be reflected in new instructions to be issued by each organization as proposed in paragraph 19 of the Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning TCDC. In addition, the programme and project manuals will need to be modified in the light of UNDP instructions, and United Nations development system procedures relating to regular programme budget funds.

Point for decision

The guidelines contained in paragraphs 20 to 23 of the Guidelines should be approved.

IV. Intergovernmental programming exercise for technical cooperation among developing countries

Introduction

14. At its seventh session the High-level Committee, in its decision 7/2 on intergovernmental programming exercises for TCDC, requested the Administrator of UNDP to report to the Committee at its eighth session on the implementation of the decision with particular emphasis on the outcome of the evaluation of the exercises. The following paragraphs constitute the report submitted in this connection.

Evaluation of the TCDC programming exercises

15. The evaluation found that the programming exercises have proven to be useful and recommended that they should be continued. The positive results and benefits accruing from the exercises contribute to the promotion of TCDC by sponsoring mutually beneficial activities resulting in transfers of technology, strengthening of developing country capacities, and improvement of systems and procedures for technical cooperation.

16. Principal recommendations for improvement of the programming exercises include modifications in the following areas:

(a) Methodology

(i) The exercises should focus on one sector or a limited number of related sectors to improve the technical quality of activities and strengthen the linkages between cooperating agencies of developing countries. The programming exercises should be closely linked to the developing countries' ongoing technical cooperation programmes, especially their bilateral TCDC programmes. In addition, more attention needs to be given to matching of capacities and needs and the formulation of activity proposals; the compendia which are prepared listing countries' capacities and needs should be balanced in so far as being supply-and-demand-driven. This should lead to programming exercises where countries' offers and requests are more balanced.

(ii) With regard to the preparation of the compendia, care should be taken in compiling the participating countries' capacities and needs. They should be prepared by people possessing in-depth knowledge of the country's institutions. The use of missions from host country to participating countries and assistance in project formulation should be selectively provided. Distribution of the compendium and collection of project proposals should be handled through one channel, the Special Unit for TCDC. There should also be greater interaction between TCDC-INRES (Information Referral System) and the national compendium preparation.

(iii) Procedural details should be further developed, e.g., project/activity pro forma should contain cost estimates, indicate a time schedule and the parties responsible for implementation. Steps in the programming exercise process should be clearly delineated to avoid overlap, and questionnaires should be clearly formatted and worded.

(b) Implementation and monitoring of agreed activities

The programming exercise mechanism needs to provide a framework for implementation of activities generated by the consultation meetings. Support for implementation should be improved, and evaluations of the results of completed exercises should be carried out within three years of the consultation meeting. Monitoring of the exercises should be the responsibility of UNDP field offices in consultation with Governments. The financial implications of activities should be identified as early as possible in the programming exercises process and financing sources should be fixed as soon as possible. TCDC umbrella projects for catalytic financing of activities generated by an exercise should be encouraged. During both formulation and implementation of activities, opportunities should be explored for twinning of institutions, setting up networks and developing larger projects which may be financed from IPFs or other resources. TCDC programming exercises should be nationally executed. Contact between TCDC national focal points should be promoted for the dual purpose of strengthening the TCDC focal point mechanisms and facilitating implementation of activities generated by the programming exercises.

17. Since completion of the evaluation in May 1991, the recommendations are being implemented through follow-up action and consultation with participating Governments, UNDP field offices, and United Nations development system agencies. This has resulted in improved implementation for programming exercises which have been carried out, and better preparation for those in the planning stages. Particular attention has been paid to greater efforts for early mobilization of financing for the agreed activities, to exercises with a more specific sectoral focus, and to more emphasis on supply-based programming exercises. Positive results have been seen in higher implementation rates for the programming exercises' agreed activities. For instance, the Indonesia programming exercise, carried out in July/August 1990 has realized an activity implementation rate of nearly 100 per cent.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/46/39), annex I.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

3/ The Challenge to the South: The Report of the South Commission (New York, Oxford University Press, 1990).

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REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGY OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

SUMMARY

The present report is submitted in compliance with decision 7/6 of the High-level Committee.

The report in its first part provides a summary of the conclusions of the various exercises on review and evaluation of the programmes and activities undertaken by the United Nations development system for TCDC and also of the findings of various consultations held with Governments, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations agencies and organizations on all aspects of TCDC. Specifically, it summarizes the identified impediments to TCDC.

In the second part the report explains the evolution of the strategy for the 1990s and provides brief information on strategy reviews undertaken by three specialized agencies: WHO, FAO and UNIDO. Then it sets out for the consideration of the High-level Committee the objectives and elements of TCDC strategy primarily for the United Nations development system. The specific thrusts of TCDC strategy in the 1990s are brought out in paragraphs 27 to 36.

INTRODUCTION

1. The High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, at its seventh session, endorsed the proposal of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme that an overall framework for the promotion and application of TCDC in technical cooperation programmes and activities of the United Nations development system (UNDS) in the 1990s be formulated in accordance with the guidelines of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), 1/ taking full account of the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the United Nations organizations, 2/ the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report 3/ and ongoing evaluations.

2. The Committee appreciated the importance of developing a strategy for the UNDS that will make the system in the 1990s more efficiently supportive of the endeavours of developing countries and their institutions in applying TCDC. The Administrator was requested to present the proposed strategy paper at the eighth session in 1993 for review and comments.

3. Account was taken of the above-mentioned earlier reports and several initiatives and evaluations undertaken since 1990 for the preparation of this report. Notable among these were the evaluation of the project of action-oriented TCDC activities, 4/ evaluations of TCDC-INRES (Information Referral System), 5/ programming exercises undertaken, 6/ focal points, 7/ and the strategies adopted by some of the United Nations organizations. Mention should be made of the strategy paper by the Latin America Economic System (SELA), 8/ regional TCDC focal point, as a very useful contribution. Views and inputs were also obtained from other activities such as the regional TCDC focal points, the United Nations agencies focal point meeting last year, an expert group meeting on the status of TCDC held in Rabat.

BACKGROUND

4. The adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action provided strong impetus to TCDC by adopting 36 specific recommendations for the support and promotion of TCDC and establishing the mechanisms and arrangements for the implementation of the Plan and its recommendations. The BAPA exhorts the United Nations organizations by calling on them to be "permeated by the spirit of TCDC" and that all of them "should play a prominent role as promoters and catalysts of TCDC".

5. The continued validity of the BAPA has been repeatedly confirmed. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 33/134 endorsing the BAPA initiated a broad-based movement in favour of TCDC. It was followed by the adoption of similar resolutions and decisions by the conferences or governing bodies of specialized agencies. More recently, TCDC found strong endorsement in the South Commission report entitled The Challenge to the South. 9/ Similar emphasis is evident in FAO Conference resolution 9/85, ILO Conference resolution on technical cooperation (1987) and WHO resolution WHA.43.9 (1990). The General Assembly in 1989 once again called upon all Governments and the UNDS to implement the recommendations of BAPA. The Economic and Social Council in its

resolution 1992/41 reinforced the need for wide use of TCDC by calling on all parties in the development partnership to give first consideration to TCDC in the implementation of technical cooperation programmes and projects.

Goals of TCDC

6. The established goals of TCDC are to enhance national and collective self-reliance and to broaden the base for international technical cooperation. TCDC is envisaged and encouraged as a form of cooperation which complements North-South cooperation.

7. The main features of TCDC activities are:

(a) First, it is between two or more developing countries on an institution-to-institution basis, in the public or in the private sector.

(b) Secondly, it involves sharing of experience, expertise, know-how and facilities.

(c) Thirdly, it is managed and implemented by developing country Governments, or institutions.

(d) Fourthly, financing of the activities is primarily by the participating developing countries.

8. Although application of TCDC is primarily the responsibility of the developing countries and depends largely on the policies of national Governments, BAPA assigns a very important role to the UNDS in both promotional and operational activities in support of TCDC. The assigned role for UNDS is essentially that of a facilitator and a catalyst. Promotional activities are intended to strengthen the capacity of institutions in developing countries to engage in TCDC or to prepare the foundation for launching operational activities using this modality. Operational activities involve the application of TCDC by actually sharing and exchanging technical resources, capabilities and skills between two or more developing countries.

PROGRESS SINCE THE BAPA

9. Over the past decade, the developing countries and United Nations organizations have succeeded in firmly placing TCDC on the agenda of their governing bodies. Considerable efforts are being made to bring about stronger political commitment, and further articulate more explicitly the policy, strategy and programmes, and determine funding and institutional mechanisms for TCDC.

10. The promotion of TCDC is carried out through projects and activities such as seminars, study tours, skills transfer workshops, sensitization and orientation, training, information exchange, handbooks, manuals, programming exercises, public information campaigns and networking.

11. Progress reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the BAPA to the High-level Committee from Governments and the United Nations governing

bodies have highlighted achievements and established that there now exists a widespread awareness that TCDC could be a powerful tool for initiating, designing, organizing and promoting the kind of cooperation that can truly advance national and collective self-reliance.

12. Although no adequate documentation or compilation of information on TCDC carried out at national, regional and sub-regional levels exists, developing countries apply TCDC and carry out considerable cooperation activities bilaterally especially in training, exchange of personnel, and advisory services.

13. Despite significant progress, there is also a consensus that actual application of TCDC in development efforts is not widespread and rather slow in pace. The meeting of TCDC focal points of the UNDS rightly concluded that "TCDC is still a largely under-utilized potential for development cooperation". 10/

Conclusions from review and evaluation

14. The various exercises on review and evaluation of past and ongoing programmes and activities as well as brainstorming on future directions, which have been completed since 1990, have documented the strengths and weaknesses of various programmes and activities, provided recommendations on measures for improvement, and also put forward ideas on new approaches and initiatives. These findings have generally been confirmed by consultations with Governments of developing countries, other United Nations organizations and intergovernmental organizations. The broad conclusions are as follows:

(a) First, TCDC as a modality of project implementation has not received adequate attention and priority.

(b) Secondly, the use of the TCDC modality has not been given priority in national development activities nor in the programmes and activities supported by UNDS.

(c) Thirdly, a common and unambiguous understanding of what TCDC means has impeded the reporting on and determination of progress in the promotion of TCDC in the UNDS.

(d) Fourthly, TCDC programming exercises have expanded contacts between countries, added to knowledge about capacities and needs and resulted in many operational activities. But for greater impact, such exercises need sector concentration, greater attention to project preparation and careful monitoring of project implementation.

(e) Fifthly, in order to expand application of the TCDC modality, the capacities of developing country institutions (e.g., research and training institutions, industrial units or agricultural farms) should be strengthened. Special importance should be given to strengthened TCDC national focal points who can promote, coordinate and manage TCDC.

(f) Sixthly, more needs to be done to ensure ready availability of quality and up-to-date information on capacities of developing country institutions.

Not only should the quality and volume of the TCDC-INRES database be improved, but accessing it should be much easier and simpler.

(g) Seventhly, in order to enhance the TCDC modality in project or programme implementation, more rigorous and continuous monitoring, evaluation and reporting should be institutionalized.

IMPEDIMENTS TO TCDC

15. The use of the modality has been limited owing to a wide range of reasons, mainly:

(a) Insufficient understanding of what constitutes TCDC and the possibilities it offers;

(b) Lack of adequate data and information on capacities existing in developing countries;

(c) Lack of commitment as well as inadequate prioritization of TCDC in national policies;

(d) Attitudinal and language barriers;

(e) Internal procedures not being conducive to TCDC;

(f) Financial constraints to meet cooperation obligations.

16. The most fundamental constraints are issues of awareness, information and finance. Major development programmes are not often implemented through the TCDC modality. That is partly why few countries articulate a conscious TCDC policy and the TCDC modality seldom receives any serious consideration, not to speak of first consideration. Better availability of information on needs and capacities, greater communication and contact between countries, and a perception of TCDC as a cost-effective, more appropriate and more efficient modality will enable universal acceptance in developing countries.

17. Another constraint is the weakness of institutional underpinning. TCDC activities are undertaken under bilateral, regional or multilateral programmes; but they are not properly coordinated. Most countries have established TCDC focal points but their staffing, status, location in the governmental apparatus, terms of reference as well as legal and financial standing leave much to be desired. An effective focal point at an appropriate decision-making level can help in articulating national TCDC policy, promoting the modality and in evaluating progress, monitoring implementation, and in coordinating all TCDC activities and evaluating achievements. A strong focal point and a system of interaction between focal points can easily promote networking and twinning, two instruments highly appropriate for continued TCDC and problem-solving through joint efforts.

18. Financing of TCDC is universally acknowledged as a major bottleneck in a more widespread application of the TCDC modality. Lack of foreign exchange is almost always given as a major impediment to implementation of programmes or

projects under the TCDC modality. It is also true that many countries do not make adequate budget and logistic provision for even agreed TCDC projects. They also have not tapped available resources for TCDC activities. This is largely because TCDC is treated as an exceptional short-term or subsidiary instrument for technical cooperation. The deficiency partly is a consequence of attitudinal and institutional shortcomings.

Current environment for TCDC

19. There are many propitious developments and favourable circumstances for TCDC now.

(a) First, the level of awareness about the potential of TCDC at the government level and in the UNDS may not be all-pervasive but certainly very significant. The concept of TCDC and the nature of the modality have general acceptance across the board.

(b) Secondly, technical resources in the developing countries are indeed of high quality and available in sufficient quantity. A large number of developing countries are aware of them and can access them as well.

(c) Thirdly, developing countries have greater confidence in their own capacities in technology, skills and management which they can mobilize and share with each other.

(d) Fourthly, there are many development problems for which the only practicable solution can be found through TCDC and cooperative efforts of the developing countries themselves.

(e) Fifthly, sustained momentum in economic growth demands economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC) and expansion of South-South trade, both of which rely heavily on TCDC.

(f) Sixthly, the squeeze on availability of external resources for developing countries makes it imperative to apply the less costly but either more or equally efficient TCDC modality.

(g) Seventhly, developing countries are increasingly expanding TCDC through regional cooperation programmes and bilateral TCDC arrangements. The more well-placed among them are providing more financial resources for TCDC activities in their national budgets and sparing more experts and services for technical cooperation with other countries.

(h) Eighthly, the dramatic transformation in the political and economic systems of Eastern Europe and Central Asia offers new opportunities for TCDC.

(i) Finally, major initiatives and many intergovernmental decisions have placed high priority on TCDC. The South Commission Report has strongly underscored the importance of ECDC and TCDC. United Nations organizations are examining existing practices and searching for new ways to promote and enhance the application of TCDC. TCDC undoubtedly is given higher priority in terms of declared principles of United Nations organizations. Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41 has given the TCDC option the highest priority.

THE STRATEGY FOR THE 1990S

20. TCDC has reached a turning point where application of the modality should be the "touchstone" by which progress should be measured. Progress in the implementation of the BAPA and the enhancement of TCDC in the 1990s are primarily measured by the degree of actual utilization of the TCDC modality in the implementation of programmes and projects. This in essence means the aggressive implementation of the "first consideration" exhortation embodied in Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41.

21. A strategy for the 1990s should at least articulate the specific and priority objectives, the required actions/measures, and the means to enhance the wide utilization of TCDC in general.

22. A strategy for TCDC for a decade can only provide a broad framework that will enhance concerted effort and focus but it will not substitute for particular national, regional and agency needs and challenges. The development concerns to which priority is given, the types of capacities existing, the political commitment and resources available, experiences gained in cooperation activities among the countries in a country or a region, etc., greatly vary. These factors will determine the quality level, and the nature of activities carried out and given precedence for individual regions, even subregions.

23. The recommendations of the BAPA and the objectives and guidelines laid down therein and reinforced by subsequent decisions will continue to provide the chapeau within which TCDC will be pursued and the main tasks to be fulfilled. A concentration on specific objectives during the coming years could, however, enhance TCDC more rapidly and qualitatively both within the United Nations system and in developing countries.

Strategy of the World Health Organization (WHO)

24. WHO traditionally has promoted collaboration between various medical training and research institutions of developing countries for joint action and sharing of knowledge and technical capacities. It has assisted technical meetings of senior health experts of developing countries. It has also prepared a TCDC directory in the health sector identifying needs and capacities and potential for cooperation. Its medium-term programme on TCDC for health for all covers the 1990-1995 period. The forty-fifth World Health Assembly in 1992, while reviewing TCDC, provided new directions for the future. 11/ In preparing national health plans and use of WHO cooperation, countries are urged to consider the TCDC modality. Cost-effectiveness of technical cooperation is sought to be enhanced by ensuring that TCDC receives first priority. Strengthening of focal points, sensitization programmes and training in TCDC are emphasized and field offices are urged to give priority to TCDC.

Strategy of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

25. FAO has identified elements of its TCDC strategy anew in 1991 in its medium-term plan (1992-1997). 12/ In 1992 it developed a handbook on TCDC, which is an attempt to clarify the modality and procedures and is intended as a general guide in connection with the orientation of FAO as well as that of national staff of developing countries on TCDC. 13/ Keeping the same

objective in mind, FAO issues two newsletters a year on TCDC. The broad elements identified for the medium-term approach aim at integrating TCDC with the programming and implementation of developmental activities. The various measures in support of this strategy include: assistance to countries in building and improving the information base for TCDC, technical workshops and group training, networking and institutional twinning, evaluation and dissemination of lessons of experiences, catalysing financial support and enhancing awareness of TCDC modalities and operational procedures.

Strategy of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

26. In addition to traditional TCDC activities like networking, institution-building, exchange programmes and seminars, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has been using three powerful instruments for promotion of TCDC. The solidarity meetings are UNIDO's own design of programming exercises for both TCDC and ECDC. The Industrial and Technological Information Bank (INTIB) and Technological Information Exchange System (TIES) are broader than TCDC-INRES but they make a positive contribution to TCDC as well. In its comprehensive strategy for TCDC and ECDC, articulated in 1992, UNIDO has broken new ground. 14/ UNIDO traditionally has been linking TCDC with ECDC and this policy continues. UNIDO is emphasizing the role of developing-country institutions for TCDC and these institutions are both industrial support institutions and public and private companies and organizations in the manufacturing sector. TCDC is to be applied by these institutions and UNIDO's policy is to make it happen. The other emphasis is on TCDC/ECDC at regional and subregional levels. Additionally, information exchange and use of INTIB and TIES is emphasized and linkage with TCDC-INRES is solicited. Promotion of industrial cooperation networks is another strategy objective. UNIDO recognizes financing as a crucial element and seeks to mobilize resources specifically for ECDC and TCDC.

Objectives

27. Several specific objectives need to be pursued if TCDC is to be a widely utilized modality in implementing programmes and projects. The following could, among many, be given priority attention:

(a) The creation of a favourable environment for TCDC in developing countries by the adoption of clearly stated national policies on the priority attached to TCDC, the areas wherein it should be primarily applied; greater degree of appreciation of the potentials and comparative advantage of TCDC by development partners, particularly developing countries;

(b) Qualitative and quantitative improvement and expansion of the information and data on capacities existing in developing countries and easy access thereto;

(c) Wide application of the modality in the implementation of projects and programmes by rigorously implementing Economic and Social Council resolution 92/41;

(d) Strengthened national mechanisms for the promotion and application of TCDC;

(e) Expansion of opportunities to facilitate the launching of new cooperation activities through tested types of activities such as the matching of capacities and needs negotiations;

(f) Strengthening of institutions which carry out or have the potential to undertake significant TCDC activities.

Elements of the strategy

28. The overall framework for promotion and application of TCDC in the 1990s, as developed following the reviews and consultations, continues the measures found to be useful in the past, strengthening and modifying them as necessary, and providing new emphasis. The main strategy elements are discussed below and the new directions are particularly highlighted.

29. Expansion of sensitization at the national level: To achieve greater awareness of the comparative advantage and to enhance a more favourable environment for TCDC, sensitization and orientation activities at the national level have to be further intensified. The sensitization workshops currently being carried out aim at government officials and private institutions responsible or involved in implementation work, planning and the coordination and management of technical cooperation. These activities should be greatly intensified and, to facilitate this, the UNDP Special Unit has began decentralizing sensitization activities to national focal points and UNDP fields offices, while continuing to provide support in the form of resource persons who have been selected from the various regions and given orientation. This approach is less expensive and enables wider coverage and many more orientation workshops than the current average of five per year. A new training manual just issued, publications as well as visual aids such as video tapes currently under preparation will be available as resource materials. Although the Special Unit plays a more active role in this regard, most of the United Nations organizations carry out sensitization and orientation workshops. The need for sensitization and orientation for internal staff of the United Nations organizations must also be recognized and it should be provided with the same rigour.

30. Articulation of national TCDC policy: Support should be given to Governments to formulate and articulate national TCDC policies. For the formulation and implementation of such policies UNDS will provide every assistance.

Formulation of national TCDC policy and its careful implementation are the best guarantees for enhanced application of TCDC. A simple declaration of preference for the TCDC modality is not sufficient. How the preference will be exercised and how the policy will be implemented will also have to be spelt out in sufficient detail.

The various elements of an effective national TCDC policy can be the following:

Positive decision on the principle of according first consideration to the TCDC modality. For this purpose a coordinating authority in the Government will have to lay down appropriate criteria. The idea put forward in the Latin

American context of establishing a national commission on TCDC representing government, academic institutions bodies and private enterprise should be given due consideration.

Identification of capacities which the country can offer to other countries under the TCDC modality and similarly identification of areas in which the country can use technical resources of other countries. This will call for some judgement on needs and capacities of other developing countries. What needs to be ensured, however, is that priority sectors are determined where TCDC will be applied.

Institutional arrangements will have to be made to plan, implement and coordinate application of TCDC. This is where a properly constituted national TCDC focal point can play a vital role. How contacts between participating institutions are to be established and agreements for cooperation are to be finalized, under what terms and conditions trainees or experts are to be deputed or hosted, or how the progress in implementation or the quality of output is to be evaluated, will be among many of the mechanisms to be streamlined and standardized.

The orientation of the field staff of the UNDS and their commitment to TCDC will assume a crucial role in assisting national Governments or institutions in the private sector in proceeding in this manner in programming technical cooperation. This is one way of ensuring first consideration to TCDC modality.

31. Strengthening TCDC focal points: Strengthening TCDC focal points in all developing countries is recognized as a matter of high priority. At the same time TCDC focal points in agencies and organizations of the United Nations also need considerable strengthening.

The agency focal points face many constraints in the important promotional task they have to fulfil. Many of them are often given a marginal role in planning and programming activities and they do not have easy access to decision- or policy-making levels. The resources allocated to play active roles are far from adequate. In the meeting of the agency focal points it was recommended that their role should be strengthened by allocating greater resources for their promotional role, greater commitment to TCDC from top management, to which the agency focal points should have easy access and support. 10/

The national focal points can play a vital role in promoting TCDC and enhancing its application. At present, they have insufficient staff and inadequate financial or logistic support. Most of them do not have a clear definition of their role or terms of reference. In many instances the focal point is a part-time official dealing with many issues, one of which is TCDC.

National focal points are usually located in the Ministries of Foreign Relations, Finance, Planning or Economic Cooperation. In some countries they are a part of the office of the Presidency or Prime Minister or even an autonomous agency. The important point about location is the influence or leverage it allows in policy, monitoring and a catalytic role.

The following general functions of the national focal points as recommended by meetings of regional focal points deserve serious consideration. 15/

- To assist in the formulation of policies and strategies for the promotion and application of TCDC at the national level.

- To monitor, provide guidance and facilitate the work of national institutions to launch activities that enhance and apply TCDC.

- To assist as a source of documentation, data and information on capacities in developing countries, TCDC experiences and in the collection, dissemination and updating of information pertaining to TCDC. To organize in cooperation with UNDP and organizations outside the United Nations system orientation seminars to develop national awareness and to promote the wide use of TCDC at all stages of implementation of development programmes and projects.

- To coordinate all TCDC activities and all available resources to promote and enhance application of TCDC under bilateral or multilateral programmes.

- To serve as the channel of communication on TCDC between the Government and the United Nations organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that deal with TCDC.

In order to strengthen national focal points as well as sectoral focal points, United Nations organizations will assist national focal points in establishing a comprehensive information system on all TCDC activities and initiatives of the country concerned. Support to strengthen contacts between national focal points will continue through the institutionalized arrangements of periodic meetings of regional focal points.

32. Databases on capacities: For expanding knowledge on capacities and easily accessing technical resources available in the developing countries, the TCDC-INRES database is being updated and enriched. This is a computerized information referral system that was first established in 1976 to encourage and intensify the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of information on capacities and needs of developing countries. It currently maintains a database of about 4,300 institutions, primarily capturing information on capacities existing in various developing countries.

The measures being implemented aim at vastly expanding information on capacities and improving its quality which will mean concentration on fewer and selected sectors of technology and expertise. Another target is to introduce a system of registration that will enable updating of all information every two years. About 20 national surveys per year are being undertaken, using national consultants in approximately 80 countries.

Providing easy access to this database to more developing country Governments and institutions is the other major objective in respect of TCDC-INRES. Limited decentralization of INRES at the regional or subregional, in preference to country, level have been planned. It is also planned that instead of only responding to inquiries, INRES information will be published and

widely distributed. In fact, the first set of such publications will be available very shortly.

33. Mobilization and pooling of financing for TCDC: The BAPA lays down the general guideline that developing countries have the primary responsibility for financing cooperation activities. It also calls on the developed countries to provide support on a voluntary basis and "without prejudice to existing programmes, additional financial support for TCDC projects and activities, for example through third-country financing arrangements". The problem of financing TCDC is one of the most frequently discussed topics in TCDC-related forums. Two aspects should be considered to address this issue with clarity.

First, financing for promotional/advocacy activities, data and information gathering, studies and evaluation, specific meetings/workshops and programmes of institutional training or networking or mutual cooperation are some such activities. Even when the expertise and skills themselves are available free of cost, there are expenses to be met, such as travel costs. The most crucial cost element that has to be mobilized is foreign exchange.

Secondly, there is great potential, however, in the use of the modality in the preparation and implementation of programmes and projects for which resources are already available. TCDC can be used in any project regardless of source of financing and within the means available to a project. Greater efforts to implement programmes and projects, both national and externally funded, using the TCDC modality is hence of the highest priority if this form of cooperation is to be used widely. Economic and Social Council resolution 92/41 calls for giving first consideration to the TCDC option and aims at this objective.

The most common sources for financing of TCDC activities are: national treasuries and institutions of developing countries; United Nations system resources, particularly the IPF; foundations; and the private sector.

These constitute the more conventional sources but a number of other possible sources should be explored if the required resources for new activities and cooperation agreements are to be mobilized.

Bilateral assistance

Some donors are willing to have part of their bilateral assistance used by developing countries to finance projects implemented through TCDC. Such flexibility can greatly help minimize the serious constraint of lack of finance for travel and other costs which require foreign exchange. A host country could pay for local cost, the beneficiary country will continue to pay for all costs such as salaries, and the donor finance could cover travel and related costs through a cost-sharing arrangement. Bilateral assistance for TCDC could be more readily and flexibly available than heretofore. Projects financed through bilateral assistance could hence be more widely implemented through this form of cooperation. Indeed, many developed countries use institutions and expertise from developed countries in the implementation of their cooperation programmes.

Complementarity of efforts and resources

Within the United Nations system, the complementarity of efforts and resources must be strengthened to pool resources in support of TCDC activities. There are good examples of cooperation in which FAO, WHO, DESD, etc., and the Special Unit have very productively and jointly helped the organization and financing of major workshops and capacities- and needs-matching exercises. This pooling of resources has meant that significant resources were mobilized and made available to finance and support important promotional activities.

Fund for support of TCDC

The need for a financing mechanism for TCDC has been underscored in many forums. The establishment of a fund to provide catalytic complementary finance to implement cooperation activities is an option often urged to be considered. It is well established that lack of finance for the implementation of cooperation agreements, resulting from programming exercises has proved to be an intractable problem. An interregional fund to finance foreign exchange components is often cited as an urgent need.

34. TCDC programming exercises for matching needs and capacities: Support to programming exercises will be increased for enhancing contacts, accessing knowledge in regard to needs and capacities and undertaking projects matching needs and capacities. Based on extensive evaluations of these exercises, steps have already been taken to concentrate on limited sectors in programming exercises, do a better job of preparatory work on compilation of needs and capacities, carefully developing projects in sufficient detail and arranging or identifying possible financial resources for implementing. In particular, monitoring of progress in project implementation and evaluation of achievements are being given special attention.

35. Networks and twinning arrangements: Networking and twinning arrangements should be given greater support and priority to facilitate sustained exchange in identified areas of cooperation. Networks provide for long-term relationship and enable the undertaking of activities such as joint research and training which require time and long-term cooperation.

36. TCDC in addressing common problems and issues: Another new area of focus is joint efforts on addressing common problems. It is not only a process of exchange of experiences, but also an ongoing process of problem solving through cooperative efforts. In tackling new subjects like sustainable development, information networking or management of economic reforms, there may be joint arrangements set up by several countries to pool experiences and deal with emerging issues.

Notes

1/ See General Assembly resolution 33/134.

2/ Document DP/1990/77 (Governing Council of UNDP, thirty-seventh session). Report of the Meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning TCDC.

3/ See document A/40/656.

4/ Report of the evaluation mission on INT/83/904 - Promotion of action-oriented TCDC activities.

5/ Reports on INRES-South evaluation: Proposed agenda for INRES action: Major challenges to management for enhancing size, scope and value of database, August 1991; INRES-South evaluation Part II: Business development analysis, September 1991.

6/ Report on evaluation of TCDC programming exercises. Prepared by A. M. A. Muhith, A. Riva, R. Hammelton. May 1991.

7/ Report of the Meeting of the TCDC Focal Points of the Organizations of the United Nations Development System (TCDC/7/6), 1991.

8/ Regional TCDC guidelines and strategies for the 1990s: SELA 23rd regular meeting (document SP/CL/XVIII.O/DT No. 17), September 1992.

9/ The Challenge to the South: The Report of the South Commission (London, Oxford University Press, 1990).

10/ See note 7.

11/ Forty-fifth World Health Assembly, "Improving technical cooperation among developing countries", report by the Director-General of WHO (document A/45/11), 6 April 1992.

12/ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, medium-term plan, 1992-1997 (document C91/23), 1991.

13/ FAO Handbook on TCDC (Rome, 1992).

14/ UNIDO Industrial Development Board, eighth session (document IDB, 8/13), 14 June 1991.

15/ Report of the TCDC National Focal Points Workshop at Damascus (SU/TCDC, UNDP), August 1992.

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MEASURES TO FACILITATE TCDC - STAFFING OF THE SPECIAL UNIT FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

1. In its decision 7/3 of 6 June 1992, entitled "Strengthening the capacity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries", the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries 1/ referred to earlier decisions concerning the strengthening of the Special Unit in order to enable it to discharge all its mandated responsibilities effectively.

2. Responding to this and earlier decisions of the High-level Committee and of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on this subject, the Administrator of UNDP has endeavoured to maintain the staffing of the Special Unit at approximately the level he proposed in his report to the Committee at its seventh session. 2/ Thus, in the 1992-1993 biennium, funding for the Special Unit was transferred from the core budget of UNDP to the appropriation line for programme support and development activities and included eight established Professional and higher-level posts, and nine General Service posts. This included the reduction of one Professional post and one General Service post and the transfer of two Professional and two General Service posts from Special Programme Resources.

3. The Administrator's budgetary proposals are the result of his overall assessment of the financial and budgetary situation of UNDP. In this connection, the Administrator is proposing a reduction in the overall number of core posts, plus a reduction of one Professional post in the Special Unit for TCDC for the biennium 1994-1995. This reduction is in line with that being made to other headquarters bureaux and units. The reduction will be implemented on the basis of management initiatives to rationalize, simplify, restructure and decentralize.

4. In summary, the impact of the Administrator's proposals on TCDC's budgetary staffing is that it will decrease from eight Professional and higher-level and nine General Service posts to seven Professional and higher-level and nine General Service posts. The Administrator is confident that his proposals overall will enable the Special Unit to discharge its functions effectively and in full accordance with the mandate given to it.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/46/39), annex I.

2/ TCDC/7/8, paras. 3 and 4.